MONDAY
February 27, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.48

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

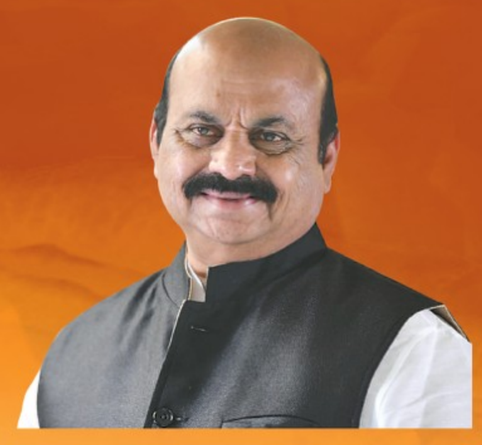
Government of India

G20 2023 INDIA ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

NAVA KARNATAKA
FOR NAVA BHARAT

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

KARNATAKA

takes a giant leap in infra development
with projects worth over **Rs. 5,800 crore**
under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Dedication of Projects to the Nation,
Foundation Stone Laying for New Projects and
Release of 13th Installment Benefit under PM-KISAN
worth over **Rs. 16,000 crore**
by **Shri Narendra Modi,**
Hon'ble Prime Minister
February 27, 2023

Inauguration of Shivamogga Airport

- Built about 10 km south of Shivamogga city in Sogane
- Cost of project - **Rs. 449 crore**
- Runway: 3.05 km, suitable for all aircraft (A320/Boeing, etc.)

Benefits

- Provides quick connectivity and accessibility to this region.
- New investments, creation of jobs and big boost to tourism in the region

Dedication of Projects to the Nation

Shivamogga Smart City Projects

- Smart city projects worth **Rs. 894 crore**
- Total population covered: **3.6 lakhs**

Foundation Stone Laying

Shivamogga - Shikaripura - Ranebennur New Line - 96 km

- Project cost: **Rs.995 crore**
- Passes through Shivamogga, Davangere and Haveri districts

Benefits

- Enhances connectivity of Shivamogga with Bengaluru – Mumbai mainline.
- Enhances connectivity to Malnad region (Western Ghats).
- Ease of transportation of Arecanut, spices, handicrafts and other agri products
- Boosts Eco and Cultural tourism (Jog falls, Ikkeri – Keladi, Bhadra Tiger Reserve, Sharavathi valley).
- Useful for students – Shivamogga is an education hub.

Shivamogga (Koteganguru) Railway Coaching Depot

- Project cost: **Rs. 105 crore**
- New station with 3 platforms and 4 running lines
- The take-off point for Shivamogga–Shikaripura-Ranebennur new line (96 km)

Benefits

- Facilitates starting of new trains from Shivamogga to cater to the growing demand.
- Enhanced connectivity from Malnad region (Western Ghats) to Bengaluru, Hubballi, Mumbai and Chennai.
- Decongests maintenance terminals in Bengaluru & Mysuru.
- New station at Koteganguru will serve as an alternative to the existing station in Shivamogga.

Multi-Village Schemes (MVS) under JJM

- No. of villages covered - **563**
- Total population covered – **4,43,510**
- Total Cost: **Rs. 953.5 crore**

National Highway Project Works

- Widening of 15 km NH 169A from Megaravalli to Agumbe. Cost: **Rs. 96 crore**
- Construction of Shikaripura bypass – NH 766C. Length: 6.5 km. Cost: **Rs. 66 crore**
- Providing road safety measures and curve improvements in NH-169 Shivamogga-Mangalore section. Cost: **Rs. 56 crore**

BELAGAVI

Dedication of Projects to the Nation

Redeveloped Belagavi Railway Station

- Cost of project: **Rs. 190 crore**
- Modern amenities, rooftop plaza

Benefits

- Second entry developed. It helps decongest the main entry.
- Improvement in circulating and parking area
- Divyang-friendly features such as lifts and escalators
- New Coaching Depot enables maintenance and starting of new trains from Belagavi.
- Enhances connectivity.

Doubling of Londa, Belagavi, Ghataprabha (Part of Londa Miraj Doubling Project)

- Length of section - 186 km
  Sanctioned length - 109 km
- Cost of project: **Rs. 932 crore**

Benefits

- Enhances capacity and safety along the busy Mumbai-Pune-Hubballi- Bengaluru railway line.
- Avoids detention of express trains and saves time for travelers.
- Enhances connectivity along the Mumbai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.
- Better connectivity will promote trade, commerce and economic activities in the region.

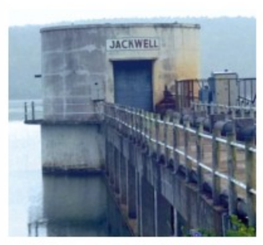
Release of 13th Installment Benefit under PM-KISAN

- Direct benefit of **Rs. 6,000** per year in three equal 4-monthly installments
- So far, **Rs. 2.25 lakh** crore transferred to more than 11 crore farmers in 12 installments.
- For the 13th installment period, more than a sum of **Rs. 16,000 core** is being transferred to **8 crore beneficiaries.**

Foundation Stone Laying

Belagavi district Multi-Village Schemes under JJM

- No. of villages covered: **242**
- Total population covered: **6,03,766**
- Total cost: **Rs. 1,120 crore**



As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Watch the program live on DD News

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

J BG-BGE

MONDAY
February 27, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

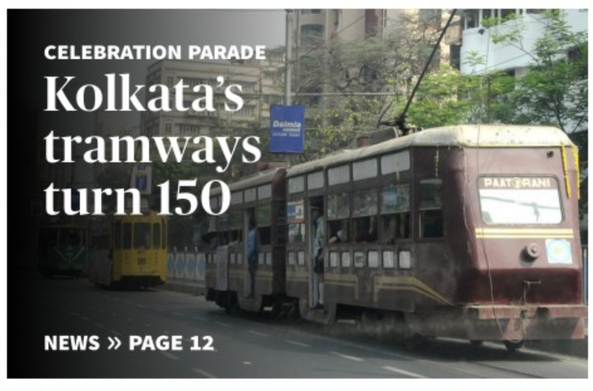
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.48

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

G20
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
NAVA KARNATAKA FOR NAVA BHARAT
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Total allocation of Rs. 25,000 crore for Irrigation Sector
The highest budget allocation for irrigation so far
Rs. 5,000 crore for Upper Krishna Project Stage-III
Mahadayi: Rs. 1,000 crore grant for Kalasa-Banduri Nala Diversion Scheme
Rs. 6,000 crore grant (including Central Assistance) for Upper Bhadra Project
BUDGET 2023-24
karnataka information
Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister



MALAYALAM UNIVERSITY ROW

Governor and Kerala govt. clash over V-C appointment

SOUTH » PAGE 7

DATA POINT

MGNREGS in disarray

There are payment delays, tech issues and budget cuts

OPINION » PAGE 9

CBI arrests Sisodia in Delhi excise policy case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Sunday arrested Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia after questioning him for over seven hours in connection with allegations of irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22.

In a statement, The agency said: "...he gave evasive replies and did not cooperate in the investigation despite being confronted with evidence to the contrary. Therefore, he has been arrested... the arrested accused will be produced before the designated court, Delhi [on Monday]." The move triggered a sharp reaction from the Aam Aadmi Party.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Adding Adani firms in 14 NSE indices raises worry

Experts seek intervention of NSE Board, SEBI; investors can be hit as nearly 16% of ₹41 lakh crore assets under management of mutual funds is in index funds and ETFs that mimic indices

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Financial experts have sought an urgent intervention by the National Stock Exchange Board and the Securities and Exchange Board of India to review an NSE subsidiary's move to add five Adani Group firms in 14 Nifty indices, which will drive savings of lakhs of investors into the group's sinking stocks from March 31.

On February 17, NSE Indices said that its Equity Index Maintenance Subcommittee has decided to replace stocks in various indices from March 31 as part of a periodic review. Among the stocks being included in its indices are Adani Wilmar (added to the Nifty Next 50 and Nifty 100), Adani Total Gas (Nifty Shariah 25) and Adani Power (10 different indices).

This move has raised concern amid the continuing meltdown in Adani Group stocks since January 24, when the U.S.-based firm Hindenburg Research made several allegations that the Adani group has denied. Global index provider MSCI is reviewing the inclusion of some Adani Group stocks and has reduced their "free float" weightage.

The NSE's popular market benchmark, the Nifty 50, includes Adani Ports and SEZ and Adani Enterprises. Following this review, the group's stocks in Nifty Next 50 and Nifty 100 will rise to six and eight, respectively. Adani Enterprises, in the Nifty 100, has been added to the Nifty 100 Liquid 15 index.

Nearly 16% of India's mutual fund industry's ₹41 lakh crore is parked in index funds and exchange traded funds that mimic NSE and BSE indices, some of which will be steered to these stocks from March 31. Wealth managers are advising clients to shift out of exposures to index funds or ETFs linked to the Nifty indices that retain or will add Adani stocks.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Steep fall

The table shows the % change in price in the past month and the ownership pattern of Adani group stocks

(ALL FIGURES IN %)

		Ownership pattern		
Stock	Fall	Promoter	MF+Public+ Others	FII
Adani Total Gas	-80.73	74.8	7.98	17.25
Adani Enterprises	-61.71	72.63	12.02	15.39
Adani Wilmar	-33.59	87.94	10.38	1.57
Adani Power	-46.32	74.97	12.15	12.88
ACC	-25.54	56.69	31.37	11.95

SOURCE: TRENDLYNE

NEARBY

Toll of ₹135 fixed for cars from city to Nidaghatta

BENGALURU
The NHAI will start collecting the toll on Bengaluru–Mysuru expressway from Tuesday. Car owners will have to pay ₹135 for a single trip from Bengaluru to Nidaghatta. » Page 2

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 6

Meghalaya, Nagaland go to the polls today

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

More than 34 lakh electors will choose their new representatives from among 552 candidates as Assembly elections will be held in Meghalaya and Nagaland on Monday.

As Tripura, where the election were conducted on February 16, each of the two States has a 60-member House. However, the election will be conducted for 59 seats each. While BJP candidate Kazheto Kinimi was elected unopposed from the Akuluto constituency in Nagaland after his lone Congress rival Khekashe Sumi opted out of the race, election to the Sohiong seat in Meghalaya was deferred following the death of United Democratic Party (UDP) candidate H.D.R. Lyngdoh.

Meghalaya has never had a clear mandate since the first State election in 1972. The National People's Party, claiming to have provided good governance despite facing corruption charges, is hopeful about crossing the halfway mark of 30 in the Assembly. "I hope the people will keep in mind the stability and the development we ensured in the last five years," Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Election day

With Meghalaya and Nagaland going to the polls today, a look at key candidates in the two northeastern States

State	Meghalaya	Nagaland
Total seats	60*	60^
Key candidates; party; constituency	Conrad K. Sangma; NPP; South Tura	Neiphiu Rio; NDPP; Northern Angami-II
	Mukul M. Sangma; Trinamool; Songsak & Tikrikilla	Temjen Imna Along; BJP; Alongtaki

* voting to be held in 59 seats after the death of UDP's candidate in Sohiong

^ voting to be in 59 seats as BJP's candidate in Akuluto won unopposed

Arrangements in place for polling in Erode (East)

The Hindu Bureau
ERODE

Arrangements are in place at the 238 polling booths, including 32 vulnerable booths, for the smooth conduct of byelection to the Erode (East) Assembly constituency here on Monday.

Polling will start at 7 a.m. and end at 6 p.m., in which 2,26,898 electors are eligible to exercise their franchise.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Prime Minister to inaugurate Shivamogga airport today

Sathish G.T.
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
SHIVAMOGGA/BELAGAVI

Continuing his back-to-back visits to poll-bound Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Shivamogga on Monday to inaugurate the the new airport, among other development works. He will address a rally on the airport premises before travelling to Belagavi to participate in various events, including a nine-km roadshow and inauguration of the railway station.

Mr. Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP president J.P. Nadda have been visiting the State frequently for the last two months, and this would be the PM's fifth visit in two months, and the third in February alone.

Preparations under way in Belagavi on Sunday to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the city. P.K. BADIGER

Earlier, he visited Hubballi (January 12), Kalaburagi (January 19), Bengaluru and Tumakuru (February 6), and again Bengaluru to inaugurate Aero India on February 13. Mr. Modi's visit is a special occasion for former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa who hails from Shivamogga district, as the airport, his dream project, is being inaugurated on his 80th birthday. Mr. Yediyurappa is still a key leader for the party's poll campaign though he announced his retirement from electoral politics.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

59 migrants killed in boat accident off southern Italy

Associated Press
ROME

At least 59 migrants were killed when their overcrowded wooden boat smashed into rocky reefs and broke apart off southern Italy before dawn on Sunday, the Italian Coast Guard said.

Survivors reportedly indicated that dozens more could be missing, as the boat had set out from Turkey five days earlier with more than 200 passengers.

At least 80 people were found alive, including some who reached the shore after the shipwreck just off Calabria's coastline.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 13

Militants gun down Kashmiri Pandit, new terror outfit claims hand in killing

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

A Kashmiri Pandit was shot dead by militants in Pulwama of south Kashmir on Sunday, sparking protests from political parties. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said security forces were being given a free hand to pursue the gunmen.

Militants fired at Sanjay Sharma, a security guard at a bank and resident of Achan, Pulwama, when he was on the way to a local market to buy groceries around 10.30 a.m. A little-known outfit, Kashmir Freedom Fighters, has taken responsibility for the killing. "After removal of Article 370, these [Pandits] are nothing but pawns of occupation to further settler colonialism agenda," its online statement said.

"Unidentified gunmen carried out the well-planned attack in the morning. Preliminary information is being sifted, and the terrorists involved will be tracked down and neutralised soon. We will not allow their ill-designs to succeed," Rayees Mohammad Bhat, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, South Kashmir range, said.

The police said Mr. Sharma's residential area had an armed guard.

A pall of gloom has descended on the three-storey home of Mr. Sharma. Local people joined the family in condemning the killing.

"I have grown up with Sharma. He was my childhood friend. Bloodshed of innocents must stop to save Islam and *Kashmiriyat*. These acts of terrorism must end," said Mr. Sharma's neighbour, who led a street protest. Mr. Sharma's wife said the family had chosen to stay back in Kashmir even when most Pandits left the Valley in the 1990s.

The attack came just two days after a civilian was shot at in Anantnag.

National Conference's Omar Abdullah said that he unequivocally condemned this attack. Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti said the vicious cycle of killings just didn't seem to end.

More bloodshed: Family members mourn Sanjay Sharma, who was shot dead in Pulwama of South Kashmir on Sunday. PTI

Cong. declaration calls for unity in party to defeat BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Party reiterates it is open to alliances with like-minded parties on the basis of common goals

India awaits a reinvigorated Congress and the party's workers must work with discipline, solidarity and complete unity to defeat the "divisive politics" of the BJP and the RSS, the Congress on Sunday said in its Raipur Declaration adopted after its 85th plenary session.

It appealed for unity among party leaders in poll-bound States, including Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, as these elections would "set the tone for 2024 Lok Sabha polls".

In its five-point declaration, the Congress once again reiterated that it was open to forming alliances with like-minded political parties on the basis of a common programme.

"We will always fight to protect our political values against the BJP's authoritarian, communal and crony capitalist onslaught. We are prepared to work with like-minded political parties on the basis of a common, constructive programme to preserve and protect the Constitution in letter and spirit and to address the three main challenges facing the country: growing economic inequality, intensifying social polarisation and deepening political dictatorship," read the declaration.

In his concluding speech at the plenary, party president Mallikarjun Kharge heralded the beginning of a "new" Congress, insisting that it could meet its challenges with "unity, discipline and determination".

"Today, we have many challenges before us, but none that the Congress cannot deal with. What is needed is unity, discipline and determination. Our strength lies in the strength of the party," Mr. Kharge said. "Our conduct at the national level will have an impact on crores of party colleagues at every level," he said.

RESOLUTIONS » PAGE 11

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The DGCA to hire more employees to strengthen safety

400 The number of employees the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) plans to hire ramping up its technical staff to 1,100 in the next one to two years. The DGCA also plans to increase the number of offices to 19 as it tightens its safety oversight capabilities. Now, DGCA has around 1,300 employees, including about 700 technical staff. PTI

Onion exports increased by 16.3% in April-December 2022

523 In $ million, the worth of onions exported by India during April-December 2022, a 16.3% rise in the commodity's exports, Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal informed. In December 2022, onion exports rose by 50% to $52.1 million. Minister Goyal's tweet came following NCP leader Supriya Sule's tweet on the matter on February 25. PTI

Poultry culling starts in Jharkhand's Bokaro as bird flu spreads

4,000 The number of birds, including chickens and ducks, on which the process of culling began in Jharkhand's Bokaro after a bird flu outbreak was reported at a state-run poultry farm, according to officials. H5N1, an avian influenza virus, was confirmed among a protein-rich breed of chicken at the farm. PTI

Cost overruns for many infrastructure projects: MOSPI

335 The number of infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more, hit by cost overruns of more than ₹4.46 lakh crore, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which monitors infrastructure projects worth ₹150 crore and above. Of the 1,454 projects, 871 projects were delayed. PTI

Migrant boat breaks and sinks in Italy, killing many

43 The number of migrants who perished when their overcrowded wooden boat smashed into the rocky reefs just off southern Italy, due to adverse weather conditions the Italian Coast Guard informed. 80 persons were recovered alive, as some succeeded in reaching the shore after the shipwreck. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

The sophisticated anatomy of heat waves

What was the warning issued by the India Meteorological Department? Why do heat waves occur? Why are they more frequent and intense? How do the La Niña and El Niño weather patterns affect the formation of heat waves? How can we forecast the arrival of heat waves?

EXPLAINER

Raghu Murtugudde

The story so far:

Last week, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned that the maximum temperatures over northwest, west, and central India would be 3-5°C higher than the long-term average. On February 21, the national capital recorded its third hottest February day (33.6° C) in more than five decades.

What is a heat wave?

According to the IMD, a region has a heat wave if its ambient temperature deviates by at least 4.5-6.4°C from the long-term average. There is also a heat wave if the maximum temperature crosses 45°C (or 37°C at a hill-station).

Heat waves are expected to become longer and more intense and frequent over the Indian subcontinent. In 2022 itself, the heat waves started early and were more numerous. They also extended further south into peninsular India due to a north-south pressure pattern set up by the La Niña, a world-affecting weather phenomenon in which a band of cool water spreads east-west across the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

The last three years have been La Niña years, which has served as a precursor to 2023 likely being an El Niño year. (The El Niño is a complementary phenomenon in which warmer water spreads west-east across the equatorial Pacific Ocean.) As we eagerly await the likely birth of an El Niño this year, we have already had a heat wave occur over northwest India. Heat waves tend to be confined to north and northwest India in El Niño years.

How do heat waves occur?

Heat waves are formed for one of two reasons – warmer air is flowing in from elsewhere or it is being produced locally. It is a local phenomenon when the air is warmed by higher land surface temperature or because the air sinking down from above is compressed along the way, producing hot air near the surface.

ISTOCKPHOTO

A study published on February 20, 2023, in *Nature Geoscience* offers explanations as to how different processes contribute to the formation of a heat wave. (The study's findings have been adapted here to the Indian context.)

First of all, in spring, India typically has air flowing in from the west-northwest. This direction of air-flow is bad news for India for several reasons. In the context of climate change, West Asia is warming faster than other regions in latitudes similarly close to the equator, and serves as a source of the warm air that blows into India. Likewise, air flowing in from the northwest rolls in over the mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan, so some of the compression also happens on the leeward side of these mountains, entering India with a bristling warmth.

While air flowing in over the oceans is expected to bring cooler air, the Arabian Sea is unfortunately warming faster than most other ocean regions.

Next, the strong upper atmospheric westerly winds, that come in from the Atlantic Ocean over to India during spring, control the near-surface winds. Any time winds flow from the west to the east, we need to remember that the winds are blowing faster than the planet itself, which is also rotating from west to east. The energy to run past the earth near the surface, against surface friction, can only come from above. This descending air compresses and warms up to generate some heat waves.

Finally, the so-called lapse rate – the rate at which temperatures cool from the surface to the upper atmosphere – is declining under global warming. In other words, global warming tends to warm the upper atmosphere faster than the air near the surface. This in turn means that the sinking air is warmer due to global warming, and thus produces heat waves as it sinks and compresses.

Given that these are the processes that contribute to the formation of a heat wave, and the ways in which global warming affects them, it is clear why once-a-decade heat wave events have started to occur once every few years, and are also more intense.

How does air mass contribute to heat waves?

The other factors that affect the formation of heat waves are the age of the air mass and how far it has travelled. The north-northwestern heatwaves are typically formed with air masses that come from 800-1,600 km away and are around two days old. Heat waves over peninsular India on the other hand arrive from the oceans, which are closer (around 200-400 km) and are barely a day old. As a result, they are on average less intense.

In sum, heat waves have a sophisticated anatomy with important implications for how well we can predict them. Nonetheless, early-warning systems can take advantage of the processes, modes of formation, location, and age of the air mass to improve the quality of warnings and also increase how soon they can be issued. Sizeable investments in human and computational resources have already increased India's forecast skills in the last decade.

For reasons that we are yet to fully understand, mortality over India due to heat waves are substantially lower than those in other mid-latitude regions (including potentially significant under-reporting). We should further improve forecast warnings, issue them as soon as possible, and couple them with city-wide graded heat action plans to protect the vulnerable.

Raghu Murtugudde is a visiting professor at IIT Bombay and an emeritus professor at the University of Maryland.

THE GIST

- On February 21, the national capital recorded its third hottest February day (33.6° C) in more than five decades.
- According to the IMD, a region has a heat wave if its ambient temperature deviates by at least 4.5-6.4°C from the long-term average. Heat waves are expected to become longer and more intense and frequent over the Indian subcontinent.
- We should further improve forecast warnings, issue them as soon as possible, and couple them with city-wide graded heat action plans to protect the vulnerable.

Are menstrual leave policies implemented globally?

Why did the Supreme Court refuse to hear a petition regarding menstrual leave for workers and students? Which are the States in India that have a menstrual leave policy?

Sruthi Darbhamulla

The story so far:

On February 24, the Supreme Court refused to entertain a PIL about menstrual leave for workers and students across the country, calling it a policy matter. It highlighted that there were different "dimensions" to menstrual pain leave.

What is menstrual leave?

Menstrual leave refers to all policies that allow employees or students to take time off when they are experiencing menstrual pain or discomfort. In the context of the workplace, it refers to policies that allow for both paid or unpaid leave, or time for rest. More than half of those who menstruate experience pain for a couple of days a month; for some it is debilitating enough to hamper daily activities and productivity.

A 2017 survey of 32,748 women in the Netherlands published in the *British Medical Journal* found that 14% of them had taken time off from work or school during their periods. The researchers estimated that employees lost around 8.9 days' worth of productivity every year due to menstrual-cycle related issues.

What are the arguments against it?

Not everyone – not even all those who menstruate – is in favour of menstrual leave. Some believe that it is not required and that it will backfire and lead to employer discrimination against women. For example, in response to the plea filed in the Supreme Court, a caveat was filed by law student Anjale Patel, represented by advocate Satya Mitra, highlighting a potential issue with menstrual leave. "The law student says that if you compel employers to grant menstrual pain leave, it may operate as a de facto disincentive for employers to engage women in their establishments... This has a policy dimension," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed.

What are some of the global menstrual leave policies?

On February 16, among a host of other sexual health rights, Spain became the first European country to grant paid menstrual leave to workers. Workers now have the right to three days of menstrual leave – expandable to five days – a month.

In Asia, Japan introduced menstrual leave as part of its labour laws in 1947, after the idea became popular with labour unions in the 1920s. At present, under Article 68, employers cannot ask women who experience difficult periods to work during that time. Indonesia too introduced a policy in 1948, amended in 2003, which states that workers experiencing menstrual pain are not obliged to work on the first two days of their cycle. In the Philippines, workers are permitted two days of menstrual leave a month. Among African nations, Zambia introduced one day of leave a month without needing a reason or a medical certificate, calling it a Mother's Day.

Are attempts being made in India?

Among State governments, Bihar and Kerala are the only ones to introduce menstrual leave to women. The Bihar government, then headed by Lalu Prasad Yadav, introduced its menstrual leave policy in 1992, allowing employees two days of paid menstrual leave every month. Recently, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had announced that the State's Higher Education department will now grant menstrual and maternity leaves for students in universities that function under the department.

Additionally, Congress MP from Kerala, Hibi Eden announced that he will be moving a private member's Bill seeking the right to paid leave during menstruation for working women, menstrual leave for female students, and free access to menstrual health products, in the ongoing Budget session of the Parliament.

THE GIST

- On February 24, the Supreme Court refused to entertain a PIL about menstrual leave for workers and students across the country, calling it a policy matter.
- Not everyone who menstruates is in favour of menstrual leave. Some believe that it is not required and that it will backfire and lead to employer discrimination against women.
- Among State governments in India, Bihar and Kerala are the only ones to introduce menstrual leave to women.

THE HINDU GROUP

WATCH YOUR STARS LIFT THE TROPHIES YOU WON THEM.

Wait no more to watch your favourite sporting stars win. The Sportstar Aces Awards night is here. Watch the event live on February 27, 2023 from 7:00 pm onwards and cheer for your idols as they take home the ACES.

SPORTSTAR ACES 2023

INDIA TRIUMPHS

Powered By

IDFC FIRST Bank

Scan the QR code or visit https://sportstar.thehindu.com/aces-awards/ to watch the event **LIVE TODAY**

Powered By

IDFC FIRST Bank

Associate Partners

IndianOil | RAMAIAH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES | India Cements | UNITED INDIA | Experimenta SCIENCE CENTRE | FINOLEX PIPES

Special Partner: Samsonite

Insurance Partner: LIC

Energy Partner: Speed, Bharat Petroleum

Online Grocery Partner: bigbasket, A TATA Enterprise

Colour Partner: NIPPON PAINT

Technology Partner: cricHQ

Realty Partner: CASAGRAND building aspirations

PR Partner: WordsWork Communications Consulting

Broadcast Partner: newsX NEWS. NOT NOISE

INBRIEF

K.V. Ashwath Narayana elected KPPA president

Advocate K.V. Ashwath Narayana was elected as president of the Karnataka Public Prosecutors Association (KPPA) on Sunday. At 43, he is the youngest to be elected as president of the 33-year-old association having 580 members. Along with him, J. Raghavendra was elected as vice-president and Savitha Patil as secretary.

German Chancellor interacts with RCB team members

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru and interacted with the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) team on Sunday. Although cricket is not as popular in Germany as in India, over 2 lakh Indians there are trying to popularise the sport. He also visited SAP Labs India's campus in the city and applauded India and especially Bengaluru for setting a precedence for driving innovation.

EPFO's 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0' to be held today

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation is organising 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0' on Monday. T. Indira, Regional PF Commissioner, Regional Office, Bengaluru (Malleswaram), has urged workers, employees, employers, Employer's Associations, pensioners, Labour Unions and NGOs to participate in the programme for redressal of their grievances and pending issues with the EPFO. The programme will be held from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Karnataka State Cricket Association, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. For details, call 080-22249133 or mail to ro.bangalore2@epfindia.gov.in

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (February 27, Monday), the following explainer is available:

- IMD is already sensing heat waves. What are they and why do they happen? **bit.ly/heatwavesforming**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Toll of ₹135 fixed for cars from city to Nidaghatta on Mysuru expressway

Toll collection from tomorrow; length of toll road is 55 km. Toll for rest of the stretch will be decided once the work is completed, says NHAI official

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Highways of Authority of India (NHAI) will start collecting the toll on the newly built Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway from Tuesday.

Car owners will have to pay ₹135 for a single trip on Bengaluru-Nidaghatta section (55 km) of the expressway. For a return journey within a day, the toll is fixed at ₹205. For mini-bus, the toll will be ₹220 and for bus ₹460 (single journey). The NHAI has categorised six types of vehicles for collecting toll.

The NHAI, after holding a meeting with Ramanagara district administration, has decided to collect the toll from 8 a.m. on Tuesday. Initially, there was a proposal to collect the toll from Monday. However, as the district administration said that the number of vehicles returning to Bengaluru after the weekend would be higher on Monday, the toll collection was deferred till Tuesday.

A view of Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway at Ramanagara. FILE PHOTO

Project director (NHAI) B.T. Sridhara told *The Hindu* that in the first phase, toll would be collected for using main lanes of the expressway from Bengaluru to Nidaghatta. Toll will be collected at Kaniminike village in Bengaluru Urban district and Sheshagirihalli in Ramanagara district. The total length of the toll road is 55 km. "For the rest of the stretch, toll will be decided once the works are completed," the official said.

Toll on expressway between Bengaluru and Nidaghatta (in ₹)

Category	Toll for single journey	Toll for return journey within a day	Local commercial vehicles registered within the district where toll plaza is located	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month
Car /jeep/van	135	205	70	4,525
LCV/LGV/mini-bus	220	330	110	7,315
Truck /bus	460	690	230	15,325
3 axle commercial vehicle	500	750	250	16,715
Heavy construction machinery /earthmoving equipment	720	1,080	360	24,030
Oversized vehicle (7 or more axles)	880	1,315	440	29,255

Inauguration

The NHAI is expediting the work between Nidaghatta and Mysuru. The official said the work would be complete by March 10. Union Minister for Roads Transport and Highways recently announced that the expressway would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The inauguration of the highway is likely to happen before March 15.

The total length of the expressway is 117 km. Some of the features of the project include 8-km-long elevated corridor, nine major bridges, 42 minor bridges, four railway overbridges, and five bypasses.

When asked about banning entry of bikes and autorickshaws on the main lanes of the expressway, the official said, "There is a proposal to ban the entry of bikes and autorickshaws, a notification in this regard will come at a later stage."

II PU student ends life

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 16-year-old II pre-university student ended her life on the premises of a 10-storey residential building at Basaveshwara Circle in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Prakurthi, a resident of Sanjaynagar. She was studying in a private college.

The girl was preparing for her exam and ventured out of her house in the afternoon saying that she will be back by evening, the police said. She, however, ended her life.

The High Grounds police have registered a case.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

Man sits in pit to demand action over illegal digging of road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fed up with repeated digging of a newly asphalted road, Anil Kumar G.R., 50, staged a silent protest by sitting in a pit for over 10 hours demanding justice. The incident happened in Hanumanthnagar.

Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu* that two months ago, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) re-asphalted the 4th Cross Road of Hanumanthnagar and alleged that without obtaining necessary permission, a private company dug up the road for a stretch of 700 metres, causing inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians in the locality. "Demanding justice, I staged a *sathyagraha* by sitting in the pit from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Digging up an asphalted road has become a habit in the city and no one cares for the plight faced by the common citizens. After my protest, some lower-rung officials from the BBMP visited the spot. Later, the BBMP filed an FIR against the company that had dug up the road. The authorities also took steps to fill the stretch of the road. During my protest, the general public sympathised with me and offered food and water."

Registering opposition: Anil Kumar H.G. staging the protest at Hanumanthnagar in Bengaluru on Sunday.

A police official from Hanumanthnagar station said that following the protest, an executive engineer from the BBMP filed an FIR against a leading service provider, Jio, for digging the road to lay optical fibre cable.

In its complaint, the BBMP said the act of the accused resulted in loss to the exchequer.

Fake website: College files complaint

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The north division cybercrime police are on the lookout for a person who created a website of a reputed college by misusing its name and logo and was offering "admissions" to cheat gullible people.

Based on the complaint by Prasad Linganna from M.S. Ramaiah Foundation, the police registered a case against an unknown person for cheating by impersonation under the IT Act, 2000, on Friday. The accused has allegedly been operating the website since January. The incident came to light when someone brought it to the notice of the college authorities.

Staffers of aided educational institutions withdraw stir

Move comes after two retired teachers ended their lives; govt. has convened a meeting with protesters on March 2 to review their demands

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

After two retired teachers ended their lives and another one is under treatment following a suicide attempt, the Karnataka State Aided School, Colleges Pension Deprived Employees Association, which had been protesting for the last 141 days in the city, temporarily withdrew its stir on Sunday.

The move also comes after the State government promised a meeting on March 2 to review the demands of the association, though an appointment with the Chief Minister to discuss the same has not materialised.

Pension demand

Teachers from aided educational institutions have been demanding that they be included in the pension scheme. There are over 10,000 such teachers demanding inclusion.

The association, which had launched a protest at Freedom Park here, had not received any response from the government until two retired teachers ended their lives. On February 22, a retired teacher from Sindhanur ended his life on the railway tracks at Malleswaram leaving behind a death note in which he blamed lack of pension for his financial woes. The next day, two retired teachers attempted suicide near Freedom Park and one of them died a day later. The other teacher is under treatment.

Lack of response

"The lack of response from the government for over 140 days has left several protesters frustrated and depressed," said J. Hanumanthappa, president of the association. He added that three others had died of a heart attack during the protest.

Legal battle

The association has been waging a long legal battle over the issue and it hit a stalemate in 2014. "Though we won a case in the Supreme Court in 2013, the government brought in 'The Karnataka Private Aided Educational Institutions Employees (Regulation of Pay, Pension and other Benefits) Act, 2014, with effect from February 12, 2014, which again denied us our rights. While a single judge of the Karnataka High Court quashed this Act, a Division Bench stayed the same in 2014 and the case hasn't moved forward since," Mr. Hanumanthappa said.

"The government has convened a meeting to discuss our demands on March 2. We will wait to see how it responds. We will relaunch our agitation if our demands are not met and continue our legal fight for the same," he said.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

READER'S MAIL

Fix roads properly

Sir, – The BBMP is carrying out major civic works on roads in several parts of Bengaluru. When the dug-up roads are re-asphalted, the construction team routinely spares all those spots where a manhole exists. This causes gaping depressions in the shape of a pothole on the newly laid road. As warning signs are not placed at such spots, motorists, mainly two-wheeler riders, face a huge risk to their life while passing over them.
Though the ideal way to remedy the problem is to raise the manhole height, it is not attempted because of the time and cost involved. An easy solution could be that soon after the asphalting, a removable precast covering – in metal or concrete – of suitable dimension is firmly affixed at the depression to match its level with that of the road. For this, the BBMP should carry a ready inventory of these covers in different standard dimensions.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, FEB. 27	
RISE 06:37	SET 18:28
RISE 11:50	SET 00:11
TUESDAY, FEB. 28	
RISE 06:36	SET 18:28
RISE 12:38	SET 01:05
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 01	
RISE 06:36	SET 18:28
RISE 13:29	SET 01:59

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	21
Mysuru	33	14
Bengaluru	31	18

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be warm and uneasy. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

IISc gets grants to study impact of solar radiation modification as proposed intervention to climate change

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) scientists have been selected to receive a research grant from the Degrees Modelling Fund (DMF), which supports scientists in developing countries and emerging economies to explore whether a controversial proposal to reflect sunlight from the earth could reduce the regional impact of climate change. IISc scientists are one of the 15 teams to receive the DMF grants.

Solar geoengineering

According to IISc, Solar Radiation Modification (SRM), also known as solar geoengineering or climate intervention, is a proposal for reducing some of the risks of global warming. If implemented, it might involve spraying tiny particles into the upper atmosphere to reflect some sunlight back out into space and reduce the impact of climate change. With global temperatures rising rapidly, SRM has the potential to be either helpful or harmful – especially in the climate-vulnerable regions of the Global South. The IISc team will use climate models to examine how SRM might affect the summer monsoon rainfall in tropical regions, especially over India – compared to the impact of rising temperatures.

For two years

Govindasamy Bala from the IISc's Centre for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and the principal investigator for the project said the funding is for a two-year period. "The IISc work will use climate model simulations to study the impact of solar radiation modification on the Indian monsoon rainfall. Specifically, we will study the impact of placing aerosols in the stratosphere. Injecting highly reflective sulfate aerosols into the stratosphere would cool the planet. But the spatial distribution of these stratospheric aerosols could have a larger influence on the Indian summer monsoon rainfall," said Prof. Bala. "Summer monsoon rainfall is the lifeline to a vast majority in India. The first thing anyone in India would want to know is how a planetary scale intervention like SRM will affect the Indian summer monsoon," he added.

The DMF is run as a partnership between the Degrees Initiative and The World Academy of Sciences . Since 2018, the DMF (originally called DECIMALS) has disbursed more than $1.8 million in research grants to 150 researchers in 21 developing countries.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.Srinivasa Gowda.Y.R S/o Sri.Ramappa** to bring the notice of the general public that he is intend **to purchase the schedule property** from **Smt.Santosh w/o Late Tejaram and her children.**
If any, person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, with all supporting documents failing which reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing Northern portion of **Site No.6,** House List Khatha No.64, property No.29/4, BBMP Katha No.5, situated at **Kodigehalli Village (Kurudu Sonnenahalli Road), K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk**, Previously comes under the Limits of Mahadevapura CMC, Ward No.15, & now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, Ward No.54, measuring east to west 45 feet and north to south 15 feet, in all measuring **675 Sq.ft,** and bounded by:
East by : Private Property, West by : 20 feet Road, North by : Site No.7, South by : Southern Portion of site No.6.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

CACHE

A scene from GoDaddy's initial public offering (IPO) at the New York Stock Exchange in 2015. REUTERS

The multi-year cyber-attack on GoDaddy servers and its impact

Attackers installed malware on GoDaddy servers causing intermittent redirection of customer websites to malicious sites, increasing the chances of successful phishing campaigns. GoDaddy is one of the largest domain registrar and web hosting platforms

Nabeel Ahmed

The story so far:

On February 16, an unauthorised third-party gained access to GoDaddy servers in its cPanel shared hosting environment, the company shared in a blog post. Attackers installed malware on servers causing intermittent redirection of customer websites to malicious sites leading to increased chances of successful phishing campaigns. Attackers also obtained pieces of code related to some services used by the company.

What does GoDaddy do?

GoDaddy is one of the largest domain registrar and web hosting platforms. The company offers services like eCommerce solutions, SSL certificates, professional business emails, web servers, and website builders. Its WordPress shared hosting services allow users to manage and build websites using plug-ins and themes. According to its latest SEC filing, GoDaddy currently has 1.5 million paying customers with $4 billion in revenues.

What are redirects, and how do they work?

Redirect, redirecting, or URL forwarding is a method used to ensure that web pages with more than one URL can be accessed by users who do not have the precise or all the existing URLs. Redirects are predominantly used when a site is shifted to a new domain where multiple URLs are available for the same webpage. Or, when two or more websites are merged, and when a web page is removed and users are sent to a new page to ensure continued services.

Setting up a server-side redirect, the kind used by threat actors in the attack on GoDaddy servers requires access to server configuration files or setting the redirect headers with server-side scripts. End-users are mostly unaware when they are being redirected to a new web page unless the web browser they use notifies them. However, redirects can be used by threat actors to get unsuspecting users to visit, interact and share information on malicious web pages.

What was the timeline of the cyberattack?

The attack on GoDaddy servers was reported on February 16, 2023. It was first discovered in December 2022 after the company investigated customer complaints about their sites being used to redirect to random domains. In November 2021, an attack was initiated using a compromised password, through which an unauthorised third party accessed the provisioning system in the company's legacy code which at the time impacted 1.2 million active and inactive MWp (Managed WordPress) customers across GoDaddy brands.

Earlier in March 2020, a threat actor compromised the hosting login credentials of approximately 28,000 hosting users on GoDaddy. The company, in its SEC filings, said it believed the attacks between 2020 and 2022 were carried out by the same threat actor group. And the cyberattack in December 2022, which led to shared servers being affected was part of the multi-year attack.

In April 2022, *Cybernews* reported hundreds of compromised WordPress sites running malicious phishing adverts, with GoDaddy being hit the most with 42 infected websites.

How did they carry out the attack?

The attack on its servers in December 2022 granted threat actors access to the company's shared servers.
Cybercriminals obtained pieces of code related to some services within GoDaddy and installed malware that intermittently redirected random customer websites to malicious sites. The company shared that the redirects were happening on seemingly random websites hosted on its cPanel shared hosting servers and were not easily reproducible by GoDaddy, even on the same website.

A cPanel is an online Linux-based graphical interface (GUI) used as a control panel to simplify website and server management for website owners and developers. These redirects could be used by threat actors to run successful phishing campaigns on the websites of GoDaddy users.

What does this mean for GoDaddy?

After the December 2022 attack, GoDaddy said it was working with multiple law enforcement agencies and forensic experts around the world to investigate the attacks and help stop future attacks. The company also said it believed the incident was part of a multi-year campaign by a sophisticated threat actor group that, among other things, installed malware on its systems and obtained pieces of code related to some services within its platform.

Law enforcement confirmed evidence which pointed that the incident was carried out by a sophisticated and organised group targeting hosting services with the intention of infecting websites and servers with malware for phishing campaigns, malware distribution, and other malicious activities, the company shared.

The company further shared that it is monitoring the behaviour of threat actors and working on blocking further attempts from the threat group.

What was the impact of the attack?

"To date, these incidents as well as other cyber threats and attacks have not resulted in any material adverse impact to our business or operations", GoDaddy shared in its SEC filings.

However, the impact of phishing campaigns carried out by threat actors by intermittently redirecting customers' websites is yet to be ascertained.

Also, since cyber threats are constantly evolving, increasing the difficulty of detecting and successfully defending against them, GoDaddy believes future incidents may increase the risk of higher sanctions, or investigations into past incidents.

And since GoDaddy's business involves the storage and transmission of confidential information, including personal information and payment card information they could be subject to liability, loss of business, litigation, government investigations, or other losses in case of a breach of sensitive data.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Apple founder Steve Jobs was born on February 24, 1955. Here is a quiz in honour of the man who revolutionised the tech world

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1
In 1985, Steve Jobs and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak received an award from the then U.S. President Ronald Regan for the development of the personal computer which sparked the birth of a new industry. Name the award.

QUESTION 2
One class that Jobs audited at Reed College later helped him pay greater attention to certain elements of Apple products. What was the class?

QUESTION 3
This Disney-Pixar movie was dedicated to Jobs, who died before the release of the film. It reads — "Dedicated with love and gratitude to Steve Jobs, our partner, mentor and friend." Name the movie.

QUESTION 4
In 2007, when Jobs introduced the Iphone he began his presentation by saying that Apple was introducing three revolutionary products but the big reveal was that it would all be a single product. One was a widescreen Ipod with touch controls and another was a revolutionary mobile phone. What was the third?

QUESTION 5
When he died Jobs owned more stock in which company than Apple?

Visual question:
Jobs gave a speech at this university and in the now iconic speech told students to stay hungry, stay foolish. Name the university. REUTERS

Questions and Answers to the February 24 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The director of *Parinda* and *1942: A Love Story*. **Ans: Vidhu Vinod Chopra**
2. Bhansali's debut film as a director. **Ans: *Khamoshi: The Musical***
3. Bhansali's love-triangle opus that won four National Awards. **Ans: *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam***
4. This 2002 work received a BAFTA nomination and was India's entry to the Oscars. **Ans: *Devdas***
5. The film which earned Bhansali the National Film Award for Best Music Direction. **Ans: *Padmaavat***
6. The title of the Bhansali film which was an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. **Ans: *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela***
7. This is a national award-winning film on an Olympic-medal-winning athlete. **Ans: *Mary Kom***
8. Bhansali was honoured with this civilian award in 2015. **Ans: Padma Shri**
Visual: The short story which was made into a Bhansali film. **Ans: *White Nights***
Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Aviral Saini| Bhanu Priya Ashok| Ajay Ghangal| Dhiraj Singh Rawat

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Yesterday's meal was a Dutch treat

He could have paid for the entire meal since he is loaded but he won't as he is a very surly person

S. Upendran

"Have you been busy?"
"My cousin from Australia is here, and I've been taking him around. We had lunch at the new restaurant yesterday."
"Heard it's very expensive. Did you go Dutch?"
"Dutch? I told you my cousin is from Australia"
"When two people decide to 'go Dutch', they share the bill."
"I see. Does each person pay for what he ordered?"
"Some people do that. Others, however, contribute towards half the bill. Here's an example. *The tickets to the rock concert were expensive. My friend and I decided to go Dutch.*"
"Whenever Sujatha and I go out, she insists that we go Dutch."
"'Dutch treat' means the same thing as 'go Dutch'."
"Yesterday's lunch wasn't a Dutch treat. My cousin paid for it."
"Your cousin must be loaded."
"Loaded? What are you talking about?"
"In informal contexts, when you say that someone is 'loaded', what you mean is that he has a lot of money."
"I see. My cousin comes from a wealthy family. So, I guess you could say he's loaded."
"Tell me what does your cousin do? Is he into..."
"He has his own software firm. Why is it called a 'Dutch treat'? What's the connection between the Dutch and a treat? Are the Dutch known for their hospitality and ..."
"Quite the opposite, actually! The Dutch were considered to be very stingy individuals – that's what the British thought, anyway. You must remember that in the past, the English and the Dutch hated each other. An Englishman thought that a Dutchman was selfish and stingy – someone who was incapable of treating a person to lunch or dinner. This is true of all expressions with the word 'Dutch' in them. They all have a very negative connotation."
"I didn't know that! Tell me, how is surly pronounced?"
"The first syllable is pronounced like the word 'sir'. The word is pronounced SIR-ly with the stress on the first syllable. Do you know what it means?"
"In the novel I'm reading, the author refers to his main character as being a 'surly old man'. I guess it means someone who is grumpy."
"Very good! Someone who is 'surly', is unfriendly."
"The person is usually in a bad mood, and this makes him very irritable."
"That's right!"
"How about this example? *At the restaurant yesterday, we were served by a surly waiter.*"
upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Cull:
the person or thing that is rejected or set aside as inferior in quality; remove something that has been rejected; look for and gather (used as a noun and verb)

Synonyms: reject, pick, pluck

Usage: *You will need an official permit if you plan on culling the local deer population.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/cullpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kʌl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Over 2,800 participate in 'Racefor7'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To raise awareness about rare diseases in India, the Organization for Rare Diseases India hosted the eighth edition of 'Racefor7' on Sunday. More than 2,800 participants joined the awareness run to support the cause of those suffering from rare diseases.

'Racefor7' symbolically represents the 7,000 rare diseases. The event was flagged off at St. Joseph's High School Ground by Pramod Nayak, Deputy Commissioner of Customs, KIA.

Man arrested for harassing over 30 women online for sexual favours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The southeast cybercrime police on Sunday arrested a 38-year-old man who used to trap gullible women for virtual sex and record their videos to blackmail them later for sexual favours.

The accused is a college dropout who owns a printing press in HSR Layout. He is married and has two children, the police said. He used to operate with fake IDs of women on Instagram to trap women to seek virtual sex for the last eight years. He would record the videos without their knowledge and later blackmail them seeking sexual favours. None of the victims had filed a complaint fearing social stigma, said C.K., Baba, DCP, Southeast, who supervised the case. Using this *modus operandi*, the accused had cheated as many as 33 women from across the country.

The accused had befriended a college student and blackmailed her for a sexual relationship after meeting her in Hyderabad. The victim had gone to pursue her course when the accused followed and took her to a hotel. When he started harassing her again, the victim even tried to end her life. However, based on a tip-off, the police reached out to her and convinced her to file a complaint. Based on the complaint, the police arrested the accused and recovered his phone and other electronic gadgets. As many as five similar cases have been reported in the division alone, Mr. Baba, said.

SBI
The banker to every Indian
yono SBI
Make claims seamless for your loved ones. Nominate them now.
All SBI Deposit Account holders, nominate through YONO App, Online Banking or at the Branch.
Scan the QR Code
Nomination Facility
For details Visit bank.sbi or call 1800 1234/2100

Conference of electricity consumers opposes bid to privatise sector

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first State-level conference of electricity consumers, organised by the Karnataka Electricity Consumers' Association (KECA) in the city on Sunday, opposed any effort towards privatisation of the power sector and demanded an immediate withdrawal of The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The convention also demanded that the government scrap the Electricity Act, 2003, which they termed "retrograde", and immediately stop installing prepaid meters.

"Power is an essential need for the livelihood of people. So it must be treated as a public service and the government must bear the responsibility of running it. Unfortunately, today both Central and State governments seem hell-bent on privatising the same. This will not only lead to a further hike in power tariffs but also destroy lakhs of stable jobs in the sector. It is high time the people of the country paid heed to the issue and built a mass movement to resist privatisation of essential public services," said S.R. Raja Naik, working president of the KPTCL Employees' Union.

K. Somashekar, convener of the Karnataka Electricity Consumers' Association and vice-president of the All-India Electricity Consumers' Association, said the incumbent regime in Delhi was only following the path tread by previous governments. "Today, the government has only accelerated those policies for the benefit of large private organisations as a result of which 50% of power production has gone into the hands of large corporations," he said.

Petronet LNG Limited

Regd. Office: World Trade Centre, Babar Road, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi – 110001
Phone: 011-23411411, **Fax:** 011- 23472550, **Email:** investors@petronetlng.in, **Company's website:** www.petronetlng.in
CIN: L74899DL1998PLC093073 | **PAN:** AAACP8148D | **GST:** 07AAACP8148D1ZI

REQUEST TO THE SHAREHOLDERS FOR REGISTRATION/UPDATION OF EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 110 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rules made thereunder and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is conducting a Postal Ballot for obtaining the approval of the shareholders for appointment of Directors. The tenure of an existing Director on the Board of the Company is being extended, disclosure of which has been made to the stock exchanges.

Further, pursuant to Regulation 17(1C) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, approval of Shareholders for appointment or re-appointment of a Director on the Board is required to be obtained either at the next General Meeting or within a time period of three months from the date of appointment, whichever is earlier, therefore, the approval of shareholders shall be obtained through the said Postal Ballot within statutory time limit.

In view of the above and pursuant to General Circular nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021, 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022 and 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars"), (including any statutory amendment(s), modification(s), variation(s) or re-enactment(s) thereof for the time being in force, and as amended from time to time), the company is bound to provide a process of registration of e-mail addresses of members and state so in its public notice.

Accordingly, the Company has provided the facility to its Members for registration/updation of their email addresses and urge them to register/update their email addresses in the following manner, so as to timely receive the Notice of Postal Ballot/ Shareholders' Meeting and other related communications:

(a) Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered/updated their email addresses with their Depository Participants, are requested to register/update their email addresses with the Depository Participants with whom they maintain their demat account. Further, the Company has provided the said facility to the shareholders through the depositories i.e. National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) under which respective depositories shall be sending SMS with a link to the shareholders whose emails are not registered. The link shall ask shareholders to update their email address upon verification of OTP.

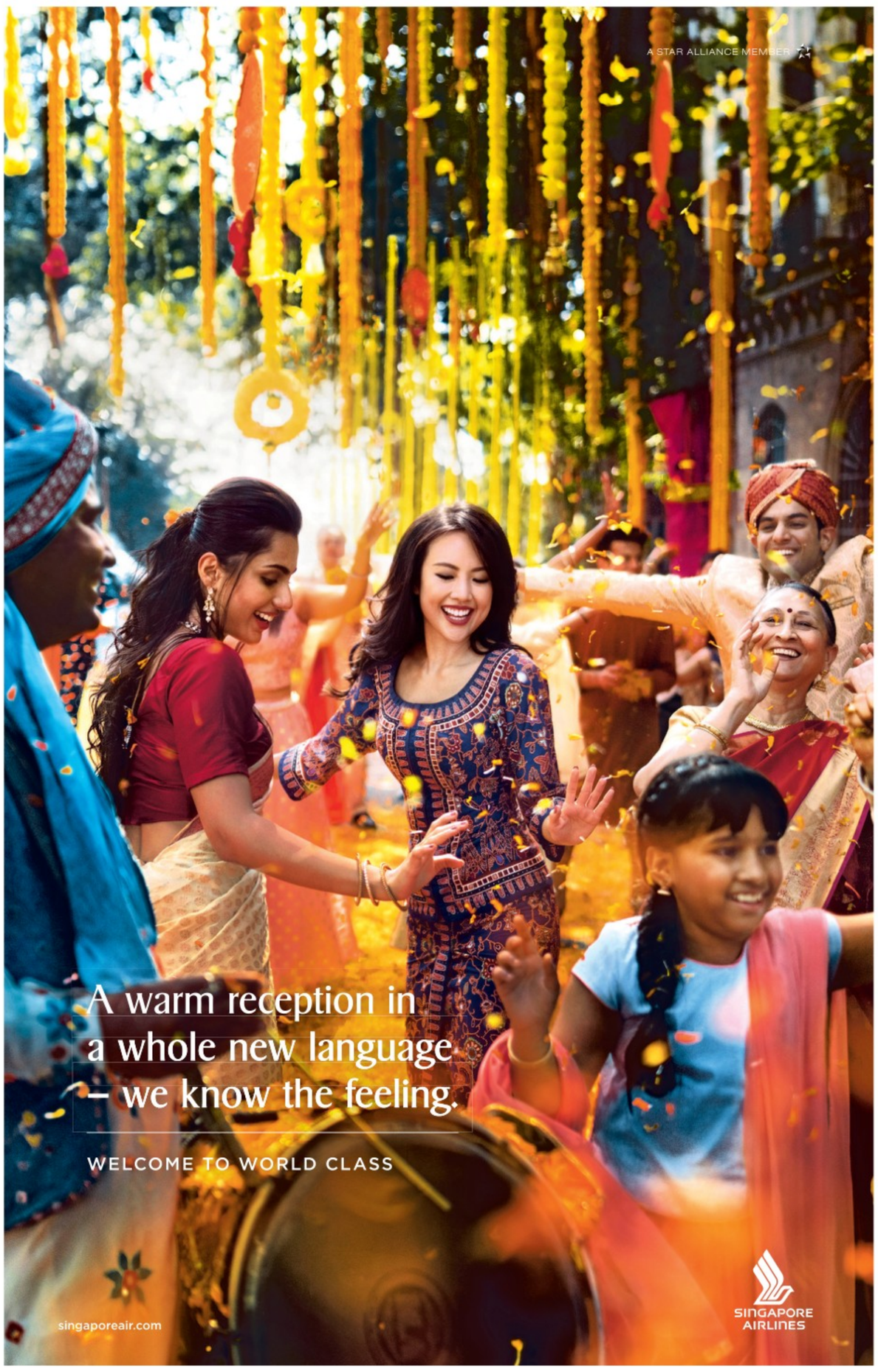
(b) Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered/ updated their email addresses are requested through this advertisement to register/update the same **by writing to the RTA/Company with details of folio number, name and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN card at investor@bigshareonline.com or at investors@petronetlng.in**.

For Petronet LNG Limited
Sd/-
Rajan Kapur
Company Secretary

Place : New Delhi
Date : 26.02.2023

Empower Your Child's Education With AhaGuru
LIVE Online Classes for IIT JEE + CBSE + NEET
ADMISSIONS OPEN 2023-24
Class 8 to 12
REGISTER NOW!
Scan the QR code to Register
Learn from IIT Topper
Dr. Balaji Sampath
9600100090, 9600100020

LAST DAY TO GRAB YOUR DEALS & DISCOUNTS!
FURNITURE FAIR™
HOME DECOR & LIFESTYLE
THE BIGGEST SAVING SALE
UPTO 70% OFF
LAST DAY TODAY
10.00 AM TO 8.30 PM
TRIPURA VASINI PALACE GROUNDS
GATE NO. 2, NEAR MEKHRI CIRCLE, BENGALURU
LIVING ROOM • DINING SET • BEDROOM • HOME DECOR • LEATHER SOFAS • BRASS & ARTIFACTS • POTTERY
• RECLINER SOFA SETS • CARPET & CUSHIONS • MATTRESSES • CURTAINS • WATER FOUNTAINS & MUCH MORE...
STYLE
COMFORT
DESIGN
FURNITURE EXCHANGE MELA
BEST DEALS! BIGGER SAVINGS!
LOW COST EMI
HDFC BANK We understand your world
BAJAJ FINSERV EMI
AN EVENT BY
iads & events
COMPLETE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
exhibitions_iadsnevents
iadsnevents
ENTRY FREE
+91 9342577908


A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER
A warm reception in a whole new language – we know the feeling.
WELCOME TO WORLD CLASS
singaporeair.com
SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Vulture survey spots 3 species each in Bandipur, Nagarahole

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The Synchronized Vulture Survey held in Bandipur and Nagarahole along with other protected areas in south India will give a population estimation of the birds to enable the authorities to prepare an action plan to conserve them.

Described as the first such survey held in south India, the Karnataka Forest Department in association with Wildlife Conservation Foundation (WCF) Mysuru conducted the survey from February 24 to 26 as part of the synchronised vulture survey also held in Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu and Wayanad in Kerala covering the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

In Bandipur, the authorities had identified 40 points for the survey based on the frequency of sighting vultures. While the first day of the survey was reserved for briefing, the participants spent 3 hours each on the subsequent two days in field survey.

A vulture survey was conducted across Bandipur, Nagarahole, Mudumalai, and Wayanad as part of the Synchronised Vulture Survey to assess their population. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

24 points

Ramesh Kumar, Director, Bandipur, said vulture sightings were reported from 24 points (out of 40) while the data from the remaining 16 points were yet to be received and tabulated. "Based on the preliminary findings from the 24 points we can say that Bandipur has a sizeable number of vulture population which are present over 70% of the park area that is spread over 912.04 sq km.

What was heartening was that different species of vultures were sighted including white-rumped vulture, red-headed vulture, and the Indian vulture, said Mr. Ramesh Kumar.

He said if the data from 16 other centres are included, the total count could increase and this was an encouraging sign. In Bandipur, there were 128 white-rumped vulture sightings, 30 red-headed vulture sightings, and 34 Indian vulture sightings. From the adjoining Nagarahole tiger reserve, there were 61 white-rumped vulture sightings, 30 red-headed vulture sightings, and 13 Indian vulture sightings.

Chances of duplication

D. Rajkumar of WCF said the earlier surveys were not jointly conducted nor were synchronised and hence there were chances of duplication of count. But the synchronised survey will give a better assessment of the population range of vultures and was taken up after a recent tripartite meeting of the park officials from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

He said it was important to have strong and sustained awareness programmes to make common people aware of the importance and conservation of vultures and the result of this survey would help prepare a Vulture Action Plan to prevent their possible extinction of these birds.

Mr. Rajkumar said conservation of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was also important as it serves as breeding location of these critically endangered species. ''We from WCF further urge both central and state government to declare this as a Vulture Safe Zone as well and establish breeding centre which will facilitate further conservation of these species'', he added. Though common a few decades ago, the vulture population declined rapidly since the 1990s and were almost wiped out due to extensive use of diclofenac present in medicines given to livestock. The vultures feeding on the carcass of livestock suffered side-effects and their numbers declined rapidly since then.

From Page One

Modi to inaugurate 'lotus-shaped' airport

He was the Deputy Chief Minister in the Janata Dal (S)-BJP coalition government in 2007 when an airport for Shivamogga was approved.

Earlier, a section of BJP leaders in Shivamogga had proposed that the airport be named after Mr. Yediyurappa. But the former Chief Minister himself suggested that it be named after Kuvempu, the first Kannada poet to get the Jnanpith award and who also hails from Shivamogga. Mr. Modi is expected to officially declare it at the inaugural ceremony.

The airport is on 775 acres at Sogane, near Shivamogga, and has been built at a cost of ₹449.22 crore. It is considered to be the second largest airport in the State, after Kempe Gowda International Airport in Bengaluru. The exterior design of the passenger terminal resembles lotus, symbol of the ruling BJP, which was objected to by some people earlier.

The Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay foundation stones for development projects worth over ₹3,600 crore in Shivamogga. Later, he will travel to Belagavi. There, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Belagavi railway station, redeveloped at a cost of ₹190 crore. He will flag off trains over the Londa-Belagavi-Ghataprabha railway track on which doubling work was completed recently. The project, taken up at a cost of around ₹900 crore, will not only reduce congestion on the Mumbai–Bengaluru line but also support goods transport between the two cities. The Prime Minister will officially launch work on the new railway line between Belagavi and Dharwad via Kittur.

He will also lay foundation for the work on six multi-village scheme drinking water projects under Jal Jeevan Mission and virtually launch the 13th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme of cash incentive to farmers. Around eight crore beneficiaries are expected to receive the ₹2,000 incentive.

Nadda to flag off BJP's Vijay Sankalpa Yatra from M.M. Hills

The yatra, starting on Wednesday, will cover 58 Assembly constituencies in 10 districts of southern and coastal Karnataka; it will culminate in Davangere with a mega rally to be addressed by Modi

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party national president J.P. Nadda will flag off the party's first Vijay Sankalpa Yatra traversing through the key districts of southern and coastal Karnataka from Malai Mahadeshwara Hills in Chamarajanagar district near here on March 1.

BJP's State vice-president M. Rajendra told reporters here on Sunday that Vijay Sankalpa Yatra to be flagged off from the revered M.M. Hills temple will be one of the four such yatras planned by the party to tour the entire State ahead of the coming Assembly elections.

The yatra will cover the 58 Assembly constituencies in 10 districts of southern and coastal Karnataka viz. Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada,

J.P. Nadda

Udupi, Chikkamagaluru, Shivamogga and Davangere. The party choosing Mr. Nadda himself to flag off the southern districts' yatra is being seen as an indication of the importance being attached to the southern districts by the BJP which is trying to make political inroads here.

Road shows

While road shows will be held in about 38 to 40 constituencies, public meetings will be held in 18 constituencies during the yatra. After the yatra is flagged off in M.M. Hills, the first public meeting will be held at Hanur, where a number of party leaders including former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa, Ministers V. Somanna, K.C. Narayana Gowda, V. Sunil Kumar, Kota Srinivas Poojary, Araga Jnanendra and S. Angara, besides V. Srinivas Prasad, MP, will attend. After traversing through other parts of southern and coastal Karnataka, the yatra will reach Davangere on March 19. The other yatras will also culminate in Davangere with a mega rally to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but the date for the rally is yet to be finalised. It may be held on any day between March 23 and 25, he added.

The southern Karnataka, comprising the Old Mysore region, has emerged key to the BJP's plans to retain power in Karnataka.

Fielding reporters' queries on the availability of suitable candidates in the party to contest the polls and the delay in announcing the names of the candidates, Mr. Rajendra said the party goes to the polls on the party's symbol and ideology. The party does not go to polls on the basis of the candidate's strengths.

With regard to public ire against the rising prices of LPG cylinder and petrol, the BJP leader said the prices of the fuel cannot be the only basis for the people to cast their votes. While prices of several essential commodities have begun dipping during the last two to three months, Mr. Rajendra said the tax collected through the LPG and petrol is eventually used by the Centre for development work including construction of roads and programmes for the poor.

Opposition making baseless charges: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

"Some Opposition leaders are making baseless allegations as they are unable to digest our progress and goodwill that the BJP is gathering from among the people," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said at Terdal in Bagalkot district on Sunday.

"However, the people are mature enough to see through their allegations and support us and in the future they will vote us back to power," he said.

He was speaking to journalists before proceeding to the inauguration of a temple in Terdal.

"Some Congress leaders have commented that leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah are visiting Karnataka for political purposes and not on other occasions. These are meaningless allegations. Every time the two leaders have visited the State, they have either launched or inaugurated development works or schemes of crores of rupees," he said.

He claimed that Karnataka had got an unprecedented amount of Central grants and that the State government was spending an equal amount of grants. "This is nothing but an era of development under the BJP government," he said.

He refused to comment on Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's statement expressing her desire to retire from active politics, saying it was an internal matter of the Congress.

However, he responded to a query, on the apparent competition between Karnataka Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar to become the Chief Minister, if the Congress came to power.

"This is an internal matter of the Congress, but I would like to say that people of the State have rejected all Congress leaders after testing them, as they were not happy with anyone of them. People of the State have not forgotten the misrule of the Congress, though the Congress leaders may have forgotten it," he said. "It is for the people to decide how important is the fight between leaders of a party that has no majority support," Mr. Bommai said.

To a query on the infighting between some BJP leaders in Bagalkot district, the CM said: "All internal issues will be resolved soon".

CORRIDORS OF POWER

BJP's 'exchange offer'

As election fever is hotting up in Karnataka, politicians are trying various forms of outreach before election code of conduct kicks in. Gifting cookers is a particular favourite to connect with women voters, but in BTM Layout there is even an "exchange offer" between competing leaders. Ramalinga Reddy (*in picture*), Congress MLA, presented cookers as Sankranthi gifts to people in his constituency. However, allegations of "sub-standard" cookers being distributed began floating around, possibly aided by his rivals in the area. Soon, BJP Yuva Morcha treasurer Anil Shetty started an exchange offer. "In order to ensure safety of women and children, we have handed over branded safe cookers in BTM constituency and we discarded low quality cookers distributed by the MLA," Mr. Shetty tweeted. It came with videos of him throwing old cookers with a flourish and giving new ones with a sticker of the party symbol. Following this, Mr. Reddy is now distributing television sets, the BJP claims. And Mr. Shetty was quick to proclaim that the Congress may be distributing TVs, but the "real picture" will be shown by the BJP to voters.

Kannada Sangha's Hindi divas

The inauguration of a two-day cultural event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Delhi Karnataka Sangha in Delhi on Saturday turned out to be "Hindi divas" of sorts, with many people talking partially in Hindi, with an eagerness to make sure Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was the chief guest, understood every word of praise that was showered on him. Almost all the speakers, including the anchor, struggled to speak in Hindi. So much so that one of the seers who was a guest from Karnataka too spoke partially in Hindi, trying his hand at even translating a Kannada poem. Mr. Modi himself began his speech in Kannada and throughout his speech glorified Kannada and Karnataka's rich culture.

Irreplaceable BSY?

BJP's national leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing Vijay Sankalp Yatra at Sandur in Ballari district on Thursday, frequently took the name of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, but hardly referred to incumbent Basavaraj Bommai. This reached a climax when he, at the end of his speech, appealed to the people to "have faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Yediyurappa" and give another chance to BJP in Karnataka so that the party could make the State corruption-free and number one State in South India. Was it slip of the tongue? Not really, say those in the know. The party, ahead of elections, needs the Lingayat icon to campaign and send out a message to his community that he is not sidelined. The 80-year-old leader has himself also been repeatedly stating that the party has "given him everything", including in his parting speech in the Assembly earlier this week. He particularly appealed to Lingayat community to shun the idea that was "sidelined" in the party.

Afshan Yasmeen
Kumar Buradikatti

MLA arranges Umrah pilgrimage for COVID warriors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With election kicking in, it is not unusual for politicians to dole out freebies to their voters. Apart from kitchen items, digital clocks and other gifts, it is a common practice to arrange pilgrimages.

This time cashing in on the pandemic, some aspiring candidates are trying to lure COVID warriors in the name of recognising their efforts during the pandemic. B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Chamarajpet MLA, has arranged Umrah (an Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah that can be undertaken at any time of the year) for 16 ASHA workers and 42 COVID warriors and members of his fan club in Sira in recognition of their services during the pandemic. He held a send-off programme and also distributed Umrah essentials along with Saudi Riyal 500 (that is over ₹11,000) to each of the 58 beneficiaries.

> ASHA workers from other communities can let me know which holy place they want to visit. I will accordingly arrange a pilgrimage for them also.
>
> **B.Z. ZAMEER AHMED KHAN**
> Chamarajpet MLA

"Held Umrah pilgrimage send-off programme for the ASHA karyakarthas and also distributed Ihram and Umrah essentials along With Saudi Riyal 500 to each of the 16 pilgrims at the JJR Nagar Ward Office in Chamarajpet Constituency," he tweeted on Saturday. He put out a separate tweet on the programme in Sira.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the pilgrimage offer was to recognise the services of COVID warriors. "I wanted to hold a function and felicitate the COVID warriors. But, ASHA workers in my constituency requested me to instead arrange Umrah for them. I had promised to fulfill their desire," he said.

He said he has asked the ASHA workers from other communities to let him know the holy place they want to visit. "I will accordingly arrange a pilgrimage for them also," he said.

With elections yet to be announced and the code of conduct yet to kick in, the Election Commission has a limited role in checking the distribution of such freebies, said EC officials.

I will not go by emotions: HDK

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has said he will take a decision on Hassan candidate keeping in mind the interests of the party, and not heeding emotions.

"In the last 18-20 years, the party took some decisions, which I tolerated for emotional reasons. I will not let it happen again," he told the media at Hariharpur in Koppa taluk on Saturday.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said he would decide on the party's candidate for Hassan. "The meeting scheduled for Sunday may have been cancelled, but my stand on the issue will remain same," he said.

THOOTHUKUDI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-TENDER NOTICE

File No : H1/1379/2022 **Dated : 25.02.2023**

The Commissioner, Thoothukudi City Municipal Corporation of inviting to sealed Tender for Solid Waste Management – Implementation of Solid Waste activities through Service Provider / Agency / Contractor under General Fund.

Estimate Value	:	**Rs. 3118.63 Lakhs**
Bid documents Website address	:	**https://tntenders.gov.in**
Tender Schedule download	:	From **01.03.2023** at **10.00 A.M** to **24.03.2023** upto **3.00 P.M**
EMD Amount	:	**Rs.31,18,630/-**
Pre-Bid Meeting	:	**08.03.2023** at **11.00 A.M,** Thoothukudi City Municipal Corporation
Tender Submission	:	**24.03.2023** upto **3.00 P.M**
Tender Opening	:	**24.03.2023** at **3.30 P.M**

Online Bidders are requested to upload Bid Documents following the instructions. If any Corrigendum / Addendum will be published Only in the aforesaid Government Websites.

DIPR/ 1202 /TENDER/2023

Commissioner
Thoothukudi City Municipal Corporation

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

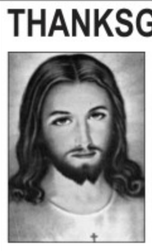
PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

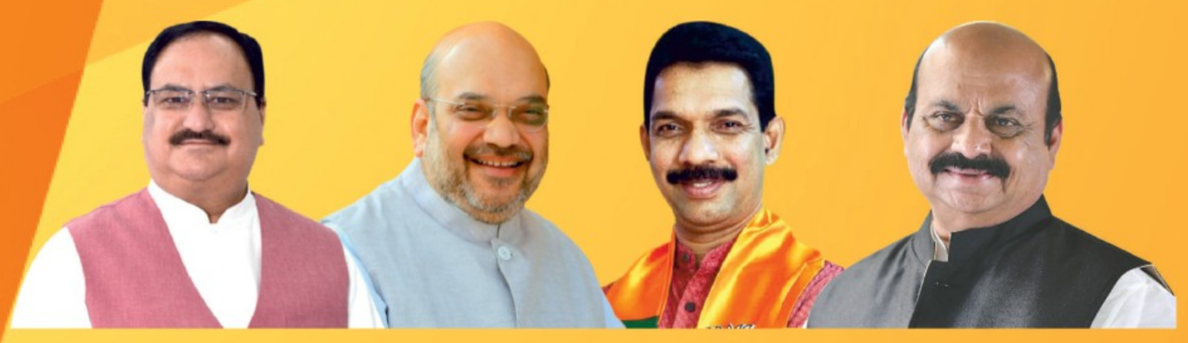
I, MANJULA V, have changed my name from CATHERINE S to MANJULA V for all future purposes by affidavit dated 24–02–2023, Notary Seshagiri. B

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING



Thanks for all the blessings received.
- Dr. Maria Chacko & Family



A statesman who made the overall development of the state his life's goal.

A disciplined and loyal soldier of the party who built the party from the grassroots.

A farmers' leader who worked tirelessly for the welfare of farmers, women and the downtrodden.

Heartfelt birthday wishes
to our guide and leader
Sri B S Yediyurappa ji
Former Chief Minister of Karnataka

Basavaraj Bommai Abhimanigala Balaga

A.P. teachers meet Nara Lokesh during his yatra

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national general secretary Nara Lokesh on Sunday promised to restore the sanctity of the teaching profession.

Slamming Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for making teachers monitor queues in front of liquor outlets, he said that the "highly respected teachers" should not have been engaged for such tasks.

A delegation from the Andhra Pradesh Teachers Federation called on Mr. Lokesh during his *Yuvagalam Padayatra* in Tirupati district on Sunday and told him their grievances.

Khan questions Kerala govt. move to appoint V-C for Malayalam University

Term of the incumbent V-C set to expire tomorrow; Raj Bhavan sought to know the grounds on which the request for Governor's nominee has been made and questioned legal standing behind govt. decision to alter composition of panel

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University has emerged as the new battleground in the tussle between Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and the State government.

The government's alleged attempts to override the Raj Bhavan in the selection process of the next Vice-Chancellor has earned the ire of the Governor who has questioned the propriety of the move. With the term of the incumbent Vice-Chancellor, V. Anil Kumar, set to expire on Tuesday, the process of identifying his successor remains uncertain.

Arif Mohammed Khan

The Governor responded rather tersely on Saturday to two letters sent by the Higher Education Department seeking his nominee on a five-member search-cum-selection committee proposed to be constituted by the government.

University told to give a list of senior professors who could officiate as V-C in-charge until a regular appointment is made

In its response, the Raj Bhavan sought to know the grounds on which the request has been made. It also questioned the legal standing behind the government's decision to alter the composition of the selection committee.

Official sources point out the government's decision to ignore a reminder sent by the Raj Bhavan on October 14, 2022 has miffed the Governor. The government was then directed to nominate its representative.

While the Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayala University Act, 2013 stipulates a committee comprising the nominees of the Chancellor, government, and the UGC, the government chose to include the representatives of the Kerala State Higher Education Council and the University Syndicate on the panel.

While the decision is in conformity with the UGC regulations that makes no mention of the composition, it stood in violation of the University Act, sources say. The government had pinned its hopes on the University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to alter the committee's composition. However, the Governor put paid to such plans by refusing to grant assent to the Bill.

The Raj Bhavan has directed the university to furnish a list of senior professors who could officiate as Vice-Chancellor in-charge until a regular appointment is made.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over north Assam.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.8	15.3	Kozhikode	—	34.5	24.1
Ahmedabad	—	35.7	14.0	Kurnool	—	37.2	21.0
Aizawl	—	31.5	9.2	Lucknow	—	31.0	14.6
Allahabad	—	33.4	12.4	Madurai	—	35.0	19.6
Bengaluru	—	33.2	17.8	Mangaluru	—	36.5	22.5
Bhopal	—	33.7	16.0	Mumbai	—	32.6	21.6
Bhubaneswar	—	35.2	19.9	Mysuru	—	32.1	13.6
Chandigarh	—	30.7	11.9	New Delhi	—	31.6	13.5
Chennai	—	31.4	21.2	Patna	—	31.0	14.4
Coimbatore	—	34.0	18.6	Port Blair	—	31.4	25.4
Dehradun	—	29.0	12.7	Puducherry	—	32.7	21.8
Gangtok	—	13.5	9.4	Pune	—	35.8	18.7
Goa	—	36.2	21.4	Raipur	—	35.3	15.0
Guwahati	—	29.4	15.5	Ranchi	—	31.6	14.5
Hubballi				Shillong	—	22.2	10.5
Hyderabad	—	34.1	18.3	Shimla	—	18.2	8.9
Imphal	—	29.2	13.5	Srinagar	0.5	14.0	7.3
Jaipur	—	31.7	17.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	22.1
Kochi	—	31.8	24.2	Tiruchi	—	33.7	19.6
Kohima	6.0	20.0	9.8	Vijayawada	—	34.2	21.5
Kolkata	—	31.9	22.1	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.14	.03	.—	248	196	
Bengaluru	.11	.08	.30	130	105	
Chennai	.22	.26	.45	149	104	
Delhi	.19	.92	.40	371	.—	
Hyderabad	.13	.03	163	113	125	
Kolkata	.14	.13	.53	217	124	
Lucknow	.36	104	.43	101	269	
Mumbai	.19	.55	.60	332	211	
Pune	.—	.45	.66	156	115	
Visakhapatnam	.09	.45	.52	114	143	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 371 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 38

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

After alleged harassment by senior, PG medical student dies in hospital

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

After battling for life for five days, a first-year postgraduate medical student from Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal was declared dead by doctors at the Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad on Sunday. She was from a Scheduled Tribe community.

A bulletin released by the Medical Superintendent of the NIMS said despite continuous efforts by a multi-disciplinary team of specialist doctors, she could not be saved and was declared dead at 9.10 p.m. on Sunday. On February 22, she tried to kill herself over alleged harassment by a second year PG student, Saif. A.V. Ranganath, Commissioner of Police, Warangal had said that Saif had been targeting her since November 2022. Telangana Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao announced an *ex gratia* of ₹10 lakh to the family. State Health Minister T. Harish Rao expressed his condolences over her death.

Several youth, members from the Scheduled Castes Reservation Parirakshana Samithi, the Girijana Shakti and various political parties mobilised on the hospital premises and staged protests. After the bulletin, the tense atmosphere heightened as protesters took to sloganeering. The protests were continuing till reports last came in. The news led to protests at her Girni Thanda village in Jangaon district. Her father demanded that a sitting judge conduct a complete inquiry. *(Those in need of help can contact: Roshini Suicide Prevention Helpline at 040-66202000)*

Racing to the finish line

A kambala race in progress at Katapadi in Udupi district on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

THE HINDU

EDUCATIONPLUS

GET THE EDGE Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Up your English skills

Work on improving your language skills with these simple tips

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Viney Kirpal

Whenever I am complimented on my English, I feel flattered, because the hard work on correcting myself has paid off. Having studied in ICSE schools until Class 8, I was shocked when I was told in college that my English was incorrect. The culprit was an English teacher in a small-town school where I did my senior secondary schooling. The college teacher promised to help me but did not.

After waiting for a month, I turned to my classmates, Maggie and Philomena. Every day, I wrote a 150-word essay that they assiduously corrected for me.

Maggie gifted me her copy of *30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary*. Every day, I studied the lessons. Instead of 30 days, I took 45 days to complete them and was delighted when I had learnt 1,000 new words that I still use to convey my meaning precisely. I was 16 when I started and continued working on my English until I topped the university in M.A. English at 22.

Mastering English is a lonely journey with no finishing line. You just keep improving your language – sometimes the vocabulary, playing with grammar but ensuring it is correct, paying attention to punctuation, and editing your work. Editing means deleting all extraneous words.

Based on my experience as a student and teacher, here are three major tips to improve your English.

Practice writing simple sentences: The basic structure of any sentence in English is subject-verb-predicate. For example, "Manoj is a child." The language is built by adding adjectives/ adverbs or adjectival/ adverbial or nominal phrases or clauses to the basic sentence. So, "Manoj is the child who lives a few houses away" comprises two sentences: i) Manoj is a child and ii) Manoj lives a few houses away. If you can understand that the entire language is built on the basis of simple sentences, you will see how easy it is to correct your English. Using relative clauses as in the above sentence – who/ which/ that – makes a simple sentence complex. Using conjunctions (but, hence, however) in clauses turns a simple sentence into a compound one. If not used carefully, they result in incorrect sentences. Hence, students who are not confident in English should use only simple sentences because everybody can construct them correctly. Do that until you feel you have gained command over the language.

Read daily: Read, read, and read anything you like – a classic or a comic, it makes no difference – but read. It will increase your speed of reading with understanding, and subconsciously enable you to pick up vocabulary and correct sentence structure. This is because you are exposing yourself to English in use. My elderly aunt, who went to the U.K., was illiterate. But, when I met her many years later, she spoke like a native though she could neither read nor write. This was because she heard English in use all day. Simply by listening to correct English or reading it, we internalise and use it when required. Likewise, listening to videos and podcasts will also help.

Use AI tools: There are multiple free AI-driven software that automatically suggest ways of correcting sentences, vocabulary, spelling or punctuation. Use these till you develop a feel for correctness.

With perseverance and continuous practice, you will win the battle. Don't be discouraged by failure; remember it will take time. Even the best user of English has had to struggle with the language. There are no shortcuts or miracles, only hard work and patience that will help you reach your goal.

The writer is former Professor of English, IIT Bombay.

SAVE THE DATE

Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Course
The School for Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (SAME) has announced admissions for the batch of 2023 for the Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) Course. SAME, a part of InterGlobe Group, offers certification in Aeroplane Turbine (Category B1.1) and Avionics (Category B2) and is approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India. Starting this year, SAME is offering a B.Sc. in AME from a UGC-approved university. Selection process involves and an online entrance test and an interview.
Eligibility: 10+2 PCM from a recognised board or university or its equivalent. Physical fitness and eye fitness have to be certified by a doctor holding an MBBS degree.
https://apply.igesame.com/

SJIM
St. Joseph's Institute of Management
28/1, Primrose Road (off M G Road), Bengaluru - 560 025
First - Ever Business School in Karnataka (Estd. 1968)
PGDM (MBA) Admissions Open
AICTE approved, NBA accredited, NIRF ranked
Specialisations Offered
Exams Accepted
CAT XAT CMAT MAT
Finance
Marketing
HR
Operations
Supply Chain Management
54 Years of Legacy, 10,000 + Alumni, 150 + Recruiters, Highest Package - 22 Lakhs
info@sjim.edu.in +91 99722 52765 www.sjim.edu.in
Top Recruiters: Morgan Stanley, TCS, Deloitte, EY, Accenture & many more

mahindra Rise

MAHINDRA PERCUSSION FESTIVAL

In Association With
THE HINDU

March 18, 2023

JAYAMAHAL PALACE HOTEL, BENGALURU

A. Shivamani
(World Percussions)

V. Selvaganesh

Ranjit Barot
(Festival Curator & Artist)

Ta Dhom Project
Viveick Rajagopalan

Chemmeen Band
ft. Aattam Kalasamithi

Pulse Conversation
ft. Gino Banks, Vinayak Pol, Jai Row Kavi

Paquito Ensemble (Spain)
ft. Paquito González, José Quevedo "Bolita" & Antonio Molina "El Choro"

Arto Tunçboyacıyan (USA)

TICKETS ON bookmyshow

Co-Sponsor Paul John Visitor Centre

Co-Sponsor Schweppes

Co-Sponsor Carlsberg Smooth Soda

Promoted and Produced by hyperlink

Settling scores

Khera arrest shows how partisan police action is a serious threat to liberty

The brief arrest of Congress leader and its Media and Publicity Department chairman Pawan Khera, after he was deboarded from a Raipur-bound flight, for an allegedly unsavoury remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is yet another instance of how criminal law can be misused to settle political scores. His lawyers managed to obtain an order from the Supreme Court that ensured his interim bail, but the episode highlights the cavalier use of the power to arrest under political instruction. It is one thing to denounce a comment as offensive or hurtful, but quite another to read into it crimes such as making assertions against national integration, outraging religious sentiments or causing enmity in society. It becomes an egregious misuse of power if police from a distant State travel all the way to effect an unwarranted arrest based on a complaint by someone claiming to be offended. The Assam Police, which had arrested Gujarat legislator Jignesh Mevani in April 2022 for calling Mr. Modi 'a Godse worshipper' on Twitter and produced him before an Assam court, tried to repeat the exercise against Mr. Khera, but were thwarted by the Court. It is disconcerting that the police in Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States tend to act on complaints relating to events that have nothing to do with their jurisdiction, except for the incidental circumstance that it is reported as news in their geography too, as elsewhere.

Unwarranted insinuations against political leaders are not uncommon when party spokespersons talk to the media, and Mr. Khera's use of 'Gautamdas' as the Prime Minister's middle name may have touched a raw nerve among Mr. Modi's supporters who saw in it a sly reference to allegations about his proximity to industrialist Gautam Adani. In fact, Mr. Khera had apologised for his comment. The police often tend to register cases for strident and unsavoury remarks made against those in power. However, the need to arrest someone in such cases is questionable. In most instances, as is the case with Mr. Khera, these comments seldom amount to the serious offences mentioned in the FIRs. Malicious or threatening speech may warrant arrest, but strident criticism or tasteless comments alone should not. Multiple FIRs in different jurisdictions and attempts to arrest those involved are part of a playbook common to rulers in many States. Often lost in the controversy is the fact that effecting arrest on charges that attract less than seven years in prison amounts to a flouting of the norms of arrest. Such egregious violations will continue as long as courts of law limit their protection to grant of bail or clubbing of FIRs, instead of hauling up the police officers and bureaucrats involved for their partisan action.

Reducing pain

All constraints on the road to gender equality must end

Many barriers on the road to gender equality have been removed, but many roadblocks remain. Women have fought hard to get to the present when, thanks to higher education and work opportunities, they can dream of balancing work and home, though couple equity is still not a reality for many. The battle for rights related to reproductive health has been a hard-fought one but women have been successful at persuading governments to initiate policy changes to improve their health and well-being. In India, the Maternity Benefit Act that was enacted by Parliament in 1961 has been amended from time to time to give women better benefits; for instance, paid maternity leave has been extended from the earlier 12 weeks to 26 weeks. It is in this context that the Supreme Court of India's directive to a petitioner to approach the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development to frame a policy on menstrual pain leave has to be seen. Pointing out that there are different "dimensions" to it, a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the biological process must not become a "disincentive" for employers offering jobs to women. A petition had sought the Court's direction to States to frame rules for granting menstrual pain leave for students and working women, but there are apprehensions that these could entrench existing stigma and also result in furthering discrimination.

In India, Kerala and Bihar have menstrual pain leave; the food delivery app Zomato has also introduced it. Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Spain and Zambia have this policy included in labour laws. Many feminists have, however, decried the move, saying it will reinforce negative gender stereotypes. Also in India, there are other problems in need of addressing such as lack of sanitation facilities in school and at the workplace, especially in the informal sector. Between 2010 and 2020 the percentage of working women dropped from 26% to 19%, according to World Bank data. To encourage more women to join the workforce, it is imperative they have access to higher education and more opportunities. Sometimes, girls have to drop out from school simply because there are no toilets. In a world that should strive to become a better place for all, it is the responsibility of the wider society and governments to ensure that no section is left behind. Many countries are trying out four-day work days for a quality life, while others are offering paternity leave so that parenting can be, rightly, equally shared, and also to ensure employers do not see recruiting women as a disadvantage. All constraints on the road to gender equality and equity must be done away with.

Lessons from Hindenburg's 'skin in the game' approach

Praveen Chakravarty

is a political economist and Chairman, Data Analytics for the Congress party

During election season, television is replete with election surveys by various pollsters predicting winners, vote shares and the seat tally of political parties. Suppose there are two television channels, A and B, making forecasts for a particular election but channel B qualifies its prediction with a bet using its own money. It stands to gain big if its predictions come true but loses all if they go wrong. Which pollster are you likely to believe more, A or B? Chances are you may trust channel B more because its incentives are aligned with its predictions. In the words of Lebanese mathematician and philosopher Nassim Taleb, channel B has 'skin in the game', an ethical principle of symmetric incentives and accountability.

A moral dilemma

Extending this thought experiment, assume that channel B's predictions come true and it makes a significant profit from its bet. It is perhaps possible that channel B's predictions may have influenced some voters to vote in a manner that reinforced its prediction. But an election outcome is dependent on a multitude of various factors. Should the fact that channel B gained financially from its predictions change your view about the merits of its survey? Would you rather have channel A's survey or regardless of its profits, is channel B's 'skin in the game' survey more preferred? The moral dilemma posed by this thought experiment is at the root of the ongoing Hindenburg Research versus Adani saga.

Hindenburg, a firm that places bets in the stock and bond markets, published a voluminous research report that raised grave allegations about the business ethics of the Adani group of companies and manipulation of share price to inflate the value. Hindenburg also took a large financial bet on the veracity of its report by engaging in a 'short sale' of Adani shares that gain when prices fall. Adani shares plummeted and Hindenburg ostensibly made a financial killing.

The Solicitor General of India questioned the motives of Hindenburg in the Supreme Court of India and argued that its report is a fallacious alibi to drive the share price down deliberately and profit from this. Commentators empathetic towards the Modi government (this includes a former Vice Chair of NITI Aayog, a former Chief Economic Adviser, a former Foreign Secretary and many others) have jumped in to cast aspersions on Hindenburg's motives, notwithstanding the fact that Hindenburg would have lost a lot of money had it been proven wrong. The irony is that Hindenburg's report has alleged that the Adani Group had deployed a grand scheme using offshore entities and related parties to manipulate its share price and gain from its rise, which is now being castigated as a mischievous report to manipulate the same Adani shares to profit from its fall. This prompts the counterfactual question: had Hindenburg published the exact same research report without making a financial bet, would it be deemed more credible?

> The research firm's willingness to take a financial bet is what lent credibility to its findings, a point that journalists, scientists and commentators must note

There is empirical evidence to show that it may have been Hindenburg's 'skin in the game' approach that helped establish its credibility among market participants. In August 2022, another foreign research firm, CreditSights, published a similar report raising questions on the governance practices and share valuations of the Adani Group. The group responded to those allegations, albeit without any reference to 'Jalianwalla Bagh' or a national flag (tapping into nationalism), as it did in its response to the Hindenburg report. The CreditSights report did not elicit much of an uproar and the stock market brushed it off with no impact on the share price of the Adani companies.

In fact, there have been at least eight such news or research reports in the last four years by similar foreign publications (Bloomberg, *The Guardian* and Morgan Stanley) about the Adani Group's alleged dubious business practices and share price movements. None of them seemed to have had the impact that the Hindenburg report has had. Arguably, it is because of Hindenburg's willingness to take a financial bet that lent credibility to its findings than a mere report.

A sign of veracity

The idea that one stands to lose if wrong is a very important signal of veracity, especially in times of fake and motivated news. To claim that the Hindenburg report is a grand devious plot to engineer a fall in the share price and profit is akin to claiming that a pollster engineered an entire election's outcome to ensure his prediction comes true and he gains financially. The financial market, like the electoral marketplace, is too complex and multivariate to be manipulated so easily. To be clear, I am not claiming markets are efficient and 'unmanipulable'. If any, they are more wrong than right. But there is a difference between distortions in market structures versus a symmetric incentive structure. It is common practice in financial markets for investors who/that buy shares, to talk them up in the hope of influencing others to buy these shares and drive the price up. This is deemed a legitimate practice and no one frowns upon it. But the exact symmetrical idea of talking down a company and 'short selling' its shares seems to elicit an outcry of *'schadenfreude'*, which is illogical.

Illegality versus immorality

In essence, Hindenburg alleged that the Adani Group inflated its stock price illegally to gain. Adani's backers allege that Hindenburg deflated its stock price immorally to gain. While the charge of immorality is baseless, nevertheless, it is important to make a distinction between the two, as the Supreme Court deliberates this matter soon. Illegality is profoundly different from immorality. One can have a legitimate debate over whether it is ethically reasonable to profit from a fall in the share price as it is to profit from its rise – but that is beyond the scope of the Hindenburg versus Adani matter and 'short sale'.

Taleb posits that the philosophical idea of 'skin in the game' of symmetrical rewards and penalties is very important to cultivate trust and trustworthiness in societies. Contrary to the argument of Adani's backers, Hindenburg's 'short sale' bet signalled confidence and trust in its research and played a critical role in the exposé of Adani's alleged financial shenanigans. This was neither illegal nor unethical. If any, such a 'skin in the game' approach where journalists, scientists and commentators are held accountable for their words and actions can help reduce the menace of fake news, 'hit jobs' and the 'tyranny of experts', and instead enhance trust in society and reduce discord.

Smoke signals from the renewable energy sphere

Shankar Nair

is a PhD student at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in King's College London

The formal launch of the Indian Oil Corporation's patented solar cook-stove at the India Energy Week 2023 (February 6-8, 2023 in Bengaluru as part of the G-20 calendar of events) by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi must be looked at closely from the point of view of India's national energy story. While Mr. Modi claimed the stove would soon reach three crore households within the next few years, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri called it a "catalyst in accelerating adoption of low-carbon options" along with biofuels, electric vehicles, and green hydrogen.

These pronouncements have followed a 99% cut in the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) subsidy (from the 2022-23 revised estimates) to low-income households in the 2023 Budget even as international fuel prices remain high. The government has claimed that the stove – priced at an eye-watering ₹15,000 – will transform cooking practices, save thousands of crores in LPG cost and forex, cut carbon dioxide emissions, and yield marketable carbon credits.

While past governments have failed to convince women to transform their household energy use through technical innovation, today, we are at an unprecedented crossroads in India's renewable energy history.

A quest derived from crises

The quest for renewable and decentralised technology in poor households has closely followed energy crises. Among the government's earliest attempt to transform household energy consumption was the solar cooker of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), fabricated in the early 1950s, in a period of great uncertainty in food security and energy self-sufficiency. The Nehru government's gambit on state-led hydroelectric power generation was a response to this crisis, but it failed to address the household energy consumption of the rural poor.

The solar cooker was met with international press coverage and newsreels in the cinema. But the 'indigenous' device, based on a 19th century innovation, was dead in the water. Apart from its prohibitive price, it cooked very slowly. As mathematician and historian D.D. Kosambi quipped, "Tried by ordinary mortals away from newsreel cameras, [the cooker] just refused to work."

> Technical innovation in India's renewable energy policy is deepening a highly uneven energy landscape

The debacle caused the NPL to steer clear of populist 'applied science' for the remainder of K.S. Krishnan's directorship. Parallel efforts to improve the traditional stove proved similarly ineffective. For example, the Hyderabad Engineering Research Laboratories made a 'smokeless *chulha*' in 1953, the brainchild of its director S.P. Raju, who wished to bring "smokeless kitchens for the millions". These stoves incorporated traditional cooking practices and locally sourced materials, but surveys documented the *chulha*'s limited uptake among rural women as it was found wanting in its design and durability.

Thereafter, the oil crisis of 1973 and an emerging forest conservation movement trained government attention on stoves that used firewood and cow dung. The international focus on "appropriate technologies" also reinforced the belief that for the energy needs of the poor, small was beautiful.

The 'improved' stove

Accordingly, in the 1980s, the government turned to "improved *chulhas*" in its national energy policy. The programme sought to check deforestation by reducing fuelwood consumption and also benefit women's health and finances. It was launched in 23 States and five Union Territories. An extensive federated system was set up, from nodal State agencies to "self-employed workers", to fulfil targets set by the national administration.

The sole incentive to adopt the "improved *chulhas*" was a 50% subsidy. The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (renamed as Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) claimed that the *chulha* had been adopted in over 32 million homes, out of a potential 120 million, by 2001.

But, by the next year, the programme had folded up. The reasons for failure included the stove's construction, high maintenance costs, and alleged bureaucratic corruption. State governments had little autonomy apart from meeting pre-set targets while workers charged with installations were underpaid.

Worse, a stove that sought to free women from drudgery now demanded they clean the chimney, break wood pellets into smaller pieces, and bear with only a marginal reduction in smoke. A National Council of Applied Economic Research survey of 10,000 villages found that the average annual dropout rate for the new *chulha* was 17%. Seventy officials connected with the scheme were subsequently suspended.

Despite this outcome, the United Progressive Alliance regime repackaged the scheme in 2009 as the 'National Biomass Cookstove Initiative', which has continued to totter on as the 'Unnat Chulha Abhiyan' from 2014.

A 2004 report noted that cooking constituted 80% of a rural Indian household's energy consumption. The International Energy Agency found that 668 million people in India depended on biomass for cooking and lighting in 2013, making India the largest consumer of fuelwood for household use. Today, despite the purported success of the government's LPG scheme, unprecedented inflation in fuel prices and the gradual withdrawal of subsidies have forced women to resort to the *chulha* with all its hazards.

Interventions then and now

There are obvious parallels between the government's boost to Indian Oil's solar stove and this history: a public-sector innovation with supposedly revolutionary impact after a fuel crisis; a gulf between state-subsidised schemes and its practical implementation; and the absence of any long-term goal to improve rural incomes despite the correlation between per-capita income and type of energy consumption.

But the similarities end here. While older interventions in the renewable sphere were led by the state and motley non-governmental organisations, which provided shallow fixes to deep social problems, today, the real action is elsewhere. Public money is now funnelled into heavily subsidised large-scale private projects that produce green energy largely for commercial use. Today, technical innovation in renewable energy policy, despite its pretensions, serves to entrench a highly uneven energy landscape.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mosque at Ayodhya

It is a matter of regret to read about the inordinate delay in the building of the mosque at Ayodhya, whose construction was formulated by the Supreme Court. While we see a remarkable swiftness in the construction of the temple belonging to the majority faith, delays due to bureaucratic bottlenecks affecting the mosque's construction are intriguing. The delay is a sordid example of the wide disparity in the way communities are treated.

J. Anantha Padmanabhan,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

The report only shows the attitude of a dispensation which does not seem to be ashamed of exhibiting its non-secular traits and arrogance. To have the mosque's construction at a standstill is deplorable especially when the country talks so much about equality and fraternity in the international arena.

Manoharan Muthuswamy,
Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

Alas, by introducing hurdles, the authorities are only rubbing salt into the wound. The verve and the dedication shown by the dispensations at the Centre as well as in the State to pursue the Ram Mandir project should have been extended to the construction of the mosque.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

'Lit For Life' 2023

It was exhilarating to have *The Hindu* 'Lit for Life' literary festival back in its physical format after a pandemic-induced hiatus. The panel discussions on myriad subjects of contemporary relevance were a treat for many avid readers of the daily and senior citizens like me. *The Hindu* deserves applause for disruptive interventions to rekindle the reading habit among Gen Z.

G. Ramasubramanyam,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Praise to *The Hindu* for bringing many of us together under the umbrella of the 'Lit for Life'. We were intellectually engaged. I hope the authors will read our postcards with their messages.

T.S. Karthik,
Chennai

My vacation in Chennai ended with my attending the second day of the literary festival. From a down-to-earth Wasim Akram who struck a chord with his candid talk, to a new reading of colonial history by master storyteller William Dalrymple, we were kept engaged through the day, hour after hour. Geetanjali Shree was a delight but it was Anita Ratnam who stood out as a moderator par excellence. It was good to see many young faces in the audience.

Nutan Mukherjee,
Singapore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Towards transparency in OTT regulation

Ravi Kiran Edara

is in the civil service and has a keen interest in Media Law and Policy. Views are personal.
ravikiranedara123@gmail.com

It has been two years since the government issued the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules through which the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) was given the task of regulating content on OTT and online platforms. India's approach can be termed as a light-touch 'co-regulation' model where there is 'self-regulation' at the industry level and final 'oversight mechanism' at the Ministry level. The Rules provide for a grievance redressal mechanism and a code of ethics. They mandate access control mechanisms, including parental locks, for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher and a reliable age verification mechanism for programmes classified as 'A' (18+).

A survey of OTT regulation in different countries suggests that most of them are yet to come up with a clear statute-backed framework. Few of them such as Singapore and Australia stand out. In Singapore, the Infocomm Media Development Authority is the common regulator for different media. Aside from instituting a statutory framework and promoting industry self-regulation, its approach to media regulation emphasises on promoting media literacy through public education.

Towards media literacy

Though the OTT Rules were notified in 2021, there is little awareness about them among the general public. The Rules mandate the display of contact details relating to grievance redressal mechanisms and grievance officers on OTT websites/interface. However, compliance is very low. In many cases, either the complaint redressal information is not published or published in a manner that makes it difficult for a user to notice easily. In some cases, the details are not included as part of the OTT app interface. This underlines the need for ensuring uniformity in the way OTT publishers display key information relating to their obligations, timelines for complaint redressal, contact details of grievance officers, etc. The manner, text, language and frequency for display of vital information could be enshrined in the Rules. The OTT industry associations could be mandated to run periodic campaigns in print and electronic media about the grievance redressal mechanism.

The interpretation of age rating (UA 13+, for example) and the content descriptors ('violence', for instance) could be in the respective languages of the video (apart from English). Such provisions are embedded in law for display of anti-tobacco messages in films. Further, age ratings and content descriptors could be shown prominently in full-screen mode for a mandatory minimum duration instead of a few seconds on screen. Such a rule exists for films under the Cinematograph Act. The Rules could also provide for clear guidelines to ensure that a film's classification/rating is prominent and legible in advertisements and promos of OTT content in print and electronic media.

Need for transparency

A periodic audit of the actual existence and efficacy of access controls and age verification mechanisms and the display of grievance redressal details by each OTT platform may be undertaken by an independent body. While the Rules require disclosure of grievance details by publishers and self-regulating bodies, the reporting formats only capture the number of complaints received and decided. Instead, the full description of complaints received by OTT providers and self-regulatory bodies and decisions given thereon may be published in the public domain.

The Ministry could consider facilitating a dedicated umbrella website wherein the details of applicable Rules, content codes, advisories, contact details for complaints/appeals, etc. are published. OTT providers and appellate/self-regulatory bodies can be made to upload the details of grievances and redressal decisions, which will be visible for the public and government authorities. This approach will aid in enhancing transparency.

The current Rules provide for the third/final tier as the Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) comprising officer-nominees from various ministries of Central government, and domain experts. The mechanism is such that while IDC recommends the course of action on OTT content violations, the Secretary of the Ministry is competent to take the final decision. The Supreme Court and High Courts have underlined the need for establishing a statutory body for regulating broadcast content. Pending the constitution of such a statutory regulator for the media, the IDC's membership may be made more broad-based and representative and with security of tenure.

There is no provision for the disclosure or publication of an apology/warning/censure on the platform or website. This may be incorporated in the Rules. Financial penalties on erring entities may also be provided. In the present era of media convergence, it is high time we evolve a common set of guidelines for content, classification, age ratings, violations, etc. so that content across platforms is governed uniformly.

India's OTT regulatory model seeks to be an efficacious combination of self-regulation and legal backing. This is in line with the global trend. The I&B Ministry envisaged that India's OTT regulations "would raise India's stature at an international level and serve as a model for other nations to emulate." The above initiatives towards enhancing media literacy and transparency will help in furthering this objective, realise the efficacy of 'self-regulation' and empower millions of OTT consumers.

Consumer awareness and transparency in grievance redressal will further strengthen India's OTT regime

Tamil Nadu's 'crash course' on NEET

The government's legal challenge could prolong anxiety for medical aspirants

STATE OF PLAY

D. Suresh Kumar
sureshkumar.d@thehindu.co.in

A year after the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly historically readopted the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill after it was returned by Governor R.N. Ravi, the aspirants of medical courses are at the crossroads. The Bill, which seeks to dispense with the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and allow admissions for undergraduate medical degree courses in 'government seats' on the basis of Class 12 marks, is pending presidential assent.

Against this backdrop, the M.K. Stalin government has moved an original suit in the Supreme Court for a declaration that the NEET as the sole gateway for entry into medical courses is a violation of the Basic Structure of the Constitution, of the fundamental right to equality, and an anathema to the principles of federalism. It has prayed to declare the NEET mandate as "*ultra vires* the provisions of the Constitution of India" and "violative of Article 14 of the Constitution." The government has argued that NEET strips the States of powers to admit students to government seats when education, despite being on the Concurrent List, is a subject within the competence of the State to legislate.

The suit, according to Health Minister Ma Subramanian, was necessitated as the previous All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) government had challenged NEET in the apex court on the basis of the repealed Medical Council Act of 1956. The DMK government

has since withdrawn the earlier suit. The current suit challenges provisions of the National Medical Commission Act.

Just days earlier, Mr. Stalin had asked his Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MPs to raise, among other things, in both House of Parliament the prolonged pendency of the NEET exemption Bill. The DMK government's launch of a legal battle at this stage, parallel to a political and constitutional fight, has expectedly led to apprehensions among medical aspirants about their fate; in Tamil Nadu, entrance examinations for professional courses were abolished in 2007 to facilitate equitable social justice. If the President defers her decision on the anti-NEET Bill, saying the matter is sub judice, it would heighten anxieties. Besides, a question would arise whether Tamil Nadu, in a parallel proceeding, can challenge the NEET in its entirety when its Bill only seeks exemption from the NEET for filling up government medical seats. If the court, which has previously dismissed Tamil Nadu's plea for NEET exemption, rejects the latest suit, the President could cite it to decline assent for the Bill. For aspirants, the litigation by the government itself could present false hopes of an exemption from NEET, thereby disrupting their preparations for this year's competitive exam.

Critics wonder if the DMK is conceding "political defeat" and mounting a "legal challenge" after failing to get timely presidential assent for the Bill. DMK leaders had accused the then Edappadi K. Palaniswami regime of being "servile" to the BJP at the Centre and not "pressuring it enough" to get exemption from NEET. They had claimed medical aspirants would be "instantly" spared the ordeal of an entrance test the moment Mr. Stalin became Chief Minister. Curiously, the decision to file the fresh suit came just days before the February 27 Erode East Assembly bypoll.

The State BJP is openly advocating for the NEET. It is clear that the Narendra Modi government is in no mood to help Mr. Stalin score political points. While seeking the opinions of the Ministries of Health and AYUSH, the Ministry of Home Affairs had pointedly asked whether the provisions of the Bill "endanger the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the nation." The AYUSH Ministry had replied in the affirmative. Details of the Centre giving a 'national threat' angle to an education subject would have remained buried had not the State Platform for Common School System (Tamil Nadu) sought details of the status of the Bill using the Right to Information Act.

It is well-documented that the NEET as a determinant of *inter se* merit is a weak narrative since students with lower scores but with paying capacity have also entered medical colleges. Yet it continues to be imposed. Politically, the Stalin government has taken a gamble. If its legal suit succeeds, it will boost the Chief Minister's image; else he could face a tough challenge.

MGNREGS woes: Payment delays, tech issues, budget cuts

In 14 States, more than 50% of workers are not eligible for the Aadhaar-based payment system

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

From being called a "living monument of failure" to "digging holes," the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has long been subject to harsh criticism by the ruling dispensation. While the NDA government hasn't done away with the UPA's legacy scheme, payment delays, technological imposition and paucity of funds have left the programme in a state of disrepair.

For instance, the Centre is yet to clear wages worth thousands of crores in West Bengal and Rajasthan. The recently introduced Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS) will impact close to 80% of workers in Maharashtra who are yet to complete the relevant formalities. Also, the Budget allocated to the scheme was slashed by 33% for FY24.

Despite the steep cut, the Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh recently claimed that the allocations were higher than what was given during the UPA regime. **Chart 1** shows that the allocation formed only 1.3% of the total budget in FY24, the lowest-ever. The share peaked at 3.4% in FY09.

From February 1, 2023, payments to MGNREGS beneficiaries were to be made only through ABPS. However, as on February 20, only 44% of total workers in India were eligible for ABPS. In 14 States, more than 50% of workers were not eligible. In Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra, where more that 2 crore workers each are enrolled under the scheme, over 60% were not eligible. **Chart 2** shows the State-wise share of workers who were not eligible for receiving payments through ABPS as on February 20. States have been divided into four categories based on the number of workers enrolled in MGNREGS.

Rajendran Narayanan, a faculty member at Azim Premji University, said, "Till the workers link their job cards and bank accounts with Aadhaar, they will not be allowed to take up MGNREGA work. That can have serious consequences because it takes time to do this process and this is the peak season of MGNREGA. Also, rectifying errors in the Aadhaar-based payments is nearly impossible for the workers and field officials."

MGNREGS also suffers from inordinate delays in payment of wages. The payment process has two stages. Stage 1, which is the States' responsibility, involves creating a Funds Transfer Order with worker details. This is sent in digital format to the Centre. Stage 2, which is the Centre's responsibility, involves processing the Funds Transfer Orders and transferring the wages to the worker's account. **Chart 3** shows the wages (in ₹crore) that were not yet processed by the States and the wages that were yet to be cleared by the Centre as on February 25. For instance, in Rajasthan, nearly ₹78 crore or 1.5% of total transactions is yet to be processed at the State level, while the Centre is yet to clear dues worth ₹1,138 crore or 18% of all transactions. In West Bengal, close to 98% of transactions worth ₹2,897 crore are pending with the Centre.

Further, several States such as West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Nagaland are running negative balances with payments pending for wages and material. This makes it difficult for them to take up new work. At the same time, they have pending payments ranging from ₹200 crore to over ₹1,000 crore. In Gujarat, Telangana, Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, while the existing balance is positive, the pending payments far exceed the balance, which if cleared, will push the States into negative territory. **Chart 4** shows balance remaining with States (blue bar) and payments that are due (yellow bar) in ₹crore.

Financial woes of MGNREGS

The data for charts has been sourced from MGNREGS' MIS reports, Budget documents and the Ministry of Rural Development

Chart 1: The chart shows the allocation for MGNREGS as a share of the total budget. In FY24, the allocation formed 1.3% of the total budget, the lowest-ever

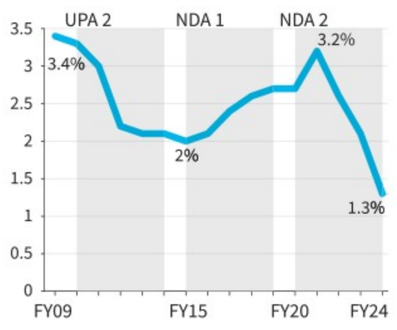


Chart 2: The shows the State-wise share of workers who were not eligible for receiving payments through the Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS)

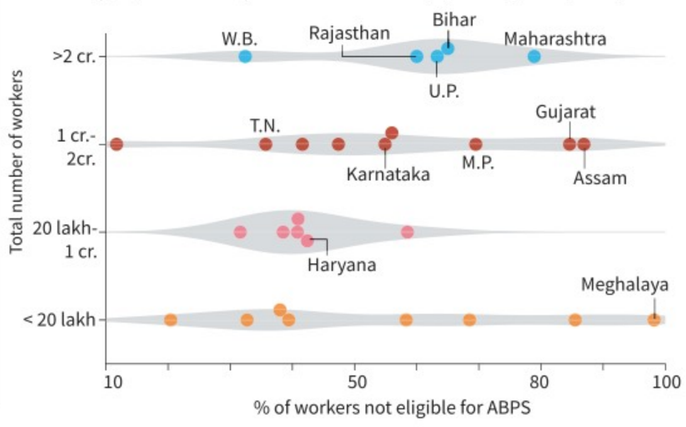


Chart 3: The chart shows the wages (in ₹crore) that were not yet processed by the States (●) and the wages that were yet to be cleared by the Centre (●)

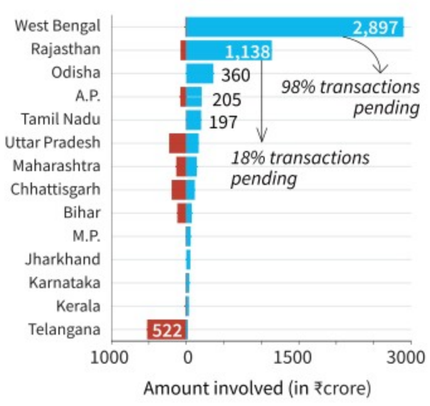
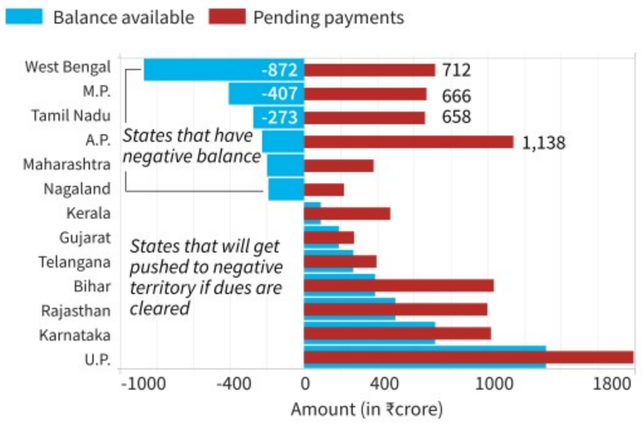


Chart 4: The chart shows the balance remaining with the States and the payments that are due in ₹crore



nihalani.j@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 27, 1973

Raj Bhavan in Gujarat may be made a museum

Ahmedabad, Feb. 26: The Gujarat Raj Bhavan on the banks of the river Sabarmathi, which was formerly the palace of the Moghul emperor, Shah Jehan, is likely to become a museum when the present incumbent, Mr. Shriman Narayan, vacates it. The new Governor, Mr. M.K. Viswanathan from Kerala, will occupy a modern residential building built for the Chief Minister at Gandhinagar before the Congress split. One of the reasons for the new Governor occupying the former Chief Minister's residence, and now mostly used as VIP's bungalow at Gandhinagar, is the distance between the Raj Bhavan and Gandhinagar (about 40 kms) and much time wasted in carrying files and papers. Although the Raj Bhavan with its beautiful Moghul architecture can serve as an abode for the Governor, it is pointed out that there was much dust and smog in winter because the courtyard of the Raj Bhavan is exposed to the smoke coming out of the tall chimneys of the textile mills. The noise of the trains steaming out of Ahmedabad on the metre-gauge section is also annoying the inmates of the Raj Bhavan. After the defeat of the Congress (O), the present Chief Minister, Mr. Oza, decided to occupy a less pompous house and have the imposing former Chief Minister's residence as the venue for important meetings and conferences at State levels.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 27, 1923

Palestine Mandate

London, Feb. 26: Replying to Mr. Harrison, Mr. Bonar Law was of the opinion that at present it was not practicable to withdraw all British troops in Palestine, but the question of reducing the garrison of Palestine was being considered. The withdrawal of one or two Indian infantry battalions there in the immediate future had been arranged and Indian cavalry regiment was also being reduced in strength.

British official wireless: Leafield (Oxford) Midnight, Feb 27: The Premier announced that the reduction of the British garrison in Palestine was under active consideration. Arrangements had been made for withdrawing one of the two infantry battalions which were in the country. The Indian cavalry regiment was also to be rescued in strength.

From Page One

Adding Adani firms in NSE indices ups worry

In response to queries on the rationale behind the move, NSE Indices told *The Hindu* that the reconstitution of Nifty Indices' constituents is done on the basis of "objective stock selection criteria" published on its website.

"As mentioned in the [methodology] document, review of broad market indices is undertaken semi-annually based on data for six months ending January and July each year. As part of semi-annual periodicity, Index Maintenance Sub-Committee conducted a review of broad market and other category of indices based on data for six months ending January 31, 2022 and replacements in various indices in accordance with stock selection criteria...," the firm said, adding that the changes shall come into effect from March 31 or the close of March 29.

But given the sustained fall in most Adani group stocks since the January 31 cut-off date used by NSE Indices, Jaimini Bhagwati, a financial sector expert who had handled the capital markets division at the Finance Ministry, suggested that a review of the decision would be advisable before the March 31 implementation date for the new indices.

"There is an urgent need for the NSE's Board of Directors to take stock of this unusual situation and consider a review of the indices and their associated provisions, and related issues," Mr. Bhagwati said. At a broader level, he said that the SEBI Board, which has recently proposed regulating index providers, should also examine the Nifty indices' inclusion of Adani group companies' stocks that have suffered the steepest falls.

"Not just the indices, the SEBI Board should also take up the other issues related to the high price volatility of several Adani stocks as urgently as possible," he suggested.

NSE Indices' indexing methodology does have provisions that allow the Index Maintenance Committee to take a decision to deal with "any exceptional situation that may arise where application of stated methodology may not be practicable".

There are also clauses that enable the firm to review its methodology based on market feedback.

CBI arrests Sisodia in Delhi excise policy case

The AAP has accused the BJP of getting Mr. Sisodia arrested in a "false" case. "Manish is innocent. His arrest is dirty politics. There is a lot of anger among people on Manish's arrest. People are watching. People understand everything. People will respond to it. This will increase our spirits. Our struggle will get stronger," AAP chief and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a tweet.

Calling it a conspiracy to stop Mr. Kejriwal's "revolution", the party alleged that the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) were being used to destroy it in any way possible.

All set for the polls in Meghalaya, Nagaland

The NPP is not only running against its allies, chiefly the BJP, in 56 seats but is also facing rivals Congress and a new challenger, the Trinamool Congress. The stakes are higher for the Trinamool, which seeks Meghalaya as a fertile land for expanding its base beyond West Bengal.

Nagaland has also been prone to a fractured mandate but the lack of opposition is expected to see the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) and ally BJP through. The NPF was the single largest party with 26 seats in 2018. A weak opposition paved the way for the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) to enter the fray in Nagaland.

Arrangements in place for Erode (East) polling

A total of 77 candidates are in the fray. The prominent among them are E.V.K.S. Elangovan of the Congress, K.S. Thennarasu of the AIADMK, Menaka Navaneethan of the Naam Tamilar Katchi and S. Anand of the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam.

A total of 1,430 ballot units, 286 control units and 310 voter verifiable paper audit trials (VVPATs) were kept ready at the booths where mock polling will be held from 5.30 a.m. in the presence of booth agents.

A total of 286 presiding officers, 858 polling officers and 62 additional officers (in areas with over 1,200 electors) will be on duty. Besides, 286 micro-observers will monitor the process that will also be webcast. Since 77 candidates are in the fray, each booth will have five ballot units, one VVPAT and one control unit. *Shamiyanas* have been erected at all the booths for the voters to stand clear of the hot sun.

Asked about the action taken in respect of violations of the model code of conduct, District Election Officer and Collector H. Krishnanunni told the media that 796 complaints had been received and, after inquiries, cases had been filed.

After polling, the EVMs will be taken to the counting centre at the Government College of Engineering at Chithode and kept in strong rooms. Counting of votes will take place on March 2.

EPFO seeks Centre's nod to extend time till May 4 for claiming higher PF pension

The Labour Ministry, however, has not taken any decision on this matter. The EPFO is yet to streamline the process of online submission, alleges National Confederation of Retirees in a letter

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

As the deadline set by the Supreme Court for employees and pensioners who retired after September 1, 2014 to submit the joint options with employers to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to claim higher PF pension based on actual salary ends on March 3, the EPFO has approached the Labour Ministry seeking permission to extend the date for submission till May 4. The Ministry, however, has not taken any decision on this matter.

Sources in the EPFO told *The Hindu* that since several employers' and employees' organisations have approached them demanding extension of last date, the issue has been referred to the Labour Ministry. "The Labour Ministry will take the final decision," a senior official said.

Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav had not answered reporters' questions on the sidelines of a conference of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) about the possibility of extending the deadline of submitting the joint options.

On strike: Left MPs staging a protest at Parliament premises demanding the implementation of the SC verdict on PF pension. ANI

'Unrealistic approach'

Meanwhile, president of the National Confederation of Retirees, an All India Federation of Associations of Retired Employees, said in a letter to Central Provident Fund Commissioner Neelam Shami Rao that the EPFO's circulars on implementing the November 4 Supreme Court order on higher PF pension were illogical.

"That the circular dated February 20 has been issued too late and not keeping in mind the deadline of four months stipulated by the Supreme Court. The EPFO is yet to streamline the process of online submission whereas the last date as per stipulated time is March 3, 2023. That the EPFO vide above circulars has made filing of fresh joint option online mandatory without keeping in mind the ground realities and this is totally illogical against the principles of natural justice. Imagine how the poor pensioners who are not tech savvy and have settled down in far-flung areas of the nation in the villages after retirement can file an option online! This is a totally unrealistic approach," he said in the letter. The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) had also sent a letter to Ms. Rao demanding an extension.

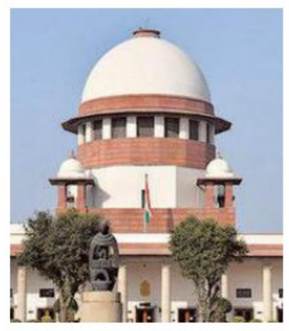
Link available

The Karnataka Employees' Association, in the meantime, said in a circular to its members that the web link for joint options will be available from Monday on the EPFO website. The Association said the deadline would be extended by two months.

"The last date for submitting joint declaration will be extended by two months. Once the Member/Establishment logs in for uploading joint declaration, the system itself would display the last date for submitting declaration. The EPFO Head Office may not issue any circular in this behalf," the Association said.

SC asks govt. what it has done to end manual scavenging

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court has directed the government to place on record within six weeks the steps taken by it to implement its nearly 10-year-old judgment to end manual scavenging and prevent future generations from the "inhuman practice" while making entry into sewers without safety gear a crime even in emergency situations.

A Bench led by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat recently took judicial notice of the fact that manual scavenging and deaths of people trapped in sewer lines continue though the practice was banned with the introduction of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 and the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

Push for rehabilitation

The top court itself had reinforced the prohibition and directed the rehabilitation of people employed as manual scavengers in its judgment in *Safai Karamchari Andolan And Others vs Union of India*.

Justice Bhat, hearing a petition filed by Dr. Balram Singh in person, sought details of steps taken by the Centre following the 2014 order, including rehabilitation of those falling within the definition of 'manual scavengers'; abolition/demolition of dry latrines statewise; status of dry latrines and employment of *safai karamcharis* in cantonment boards and railways; the nature of equipment used by municipal bodies to mechanise sewage cleaning; and online tracking of sewage deaths and actions taken by authorities, including payment of compensation and rehabilitation of families.

The court impleaded the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes as respondents in the case. The court has appointed advocate K. Parameswar as its *amicus curiae*. The Social Justice Ministry has to file its report with the information in six weeks.

No politics behind arrest of Sisodia, says BJP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia or other AAP leaders never answered questions related to suspected corruption in the excise policy, the BJP said on Sunday, following his arrest by the CBI.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra alleged that Mr. Sisodia must be the only Education Minister in the world who got involved in a liquor scam.

Mr. Patra rejected the allegation that politics was behind the arrest, saying probe agencies and parties were two separate entities. He said the BJP believed that there was merit in the case against Mr. Sisodia.

Opposition slams Sisodia's arrest; distressing to see such flagrant misuse of power: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Sunday condemned the arrest of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia by the Central Bureau of Investigation in the excise policy case.

Senior Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi tweeted: "God be with u #Manish ji. Distressing to see such repeated, flagrant, egregious & shameless misuse of arrest power. #Sisodia Cannot be (a) flight risk, suborning evidence or witnesses or non-cooperation after almost a year of investigation & interrogation. How & why arrest after so long?"

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien said: "If Manish Sisodia had got himself a BJP brand of washing machine, he would never been arrested. Bravo, Manish. Allies, Shiv Sena, SAD, JD(U), TDP and many others have all abandoned BJP. Only CBI, ED, IT remain true allies. Targeting Opposition leaders is the desperate duo's favourite job."

Show of support: Arvind Kejriwal with Bhagwant Mann and other AAP leaders speaking with the media in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Reacting sharply to the arrest of Mr. Sisodia, Samajwadi Party president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav said the ruling BJP had accepted defeat before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "... that is why it is implicating the opposition political forces in different States in false cases, but the warriors are not afraid of going to jail. How long can the truth be kept under arrest?" he said.

Tight security

Earlier on Sunday, ahead of the questioning of Mr. Sisodia, the CBI headquarters was heavily barricaded and policemen deployed in large numbers. They detained about 50 workers and leaders of the AAP who had gathered nearby to organise a protest. Among them were Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, Delhi Minister Gopal Rai, three MLAs and one former MLA.

Mr. Sisodia was earlier quizzed by the CBI on October 17 last year and over a month later, it filed a chargesheet against five private persons and two Excise department officials. However, he had not been arraigned.

On August 17, 2022, the agency had registered a case against Mr. Sisodia and 14 others on a reference from the Union Home Ministry. As alleged, the excise policy was modified to extend undue favours to licence holders; licence fee was waived or reduced; and L-1 (wholesaler) licence was extended without the competent authority's approval.

It is alleged that the then AAP communication and media in-charge Vijay Nair, on behalf of AAP leaders, received ₹100 crore as "kickbacks" in advance from a "South Group" whose prominent entities were YSRCP MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, his son Raghav Magunta, BRS MLC K. Kavitha and Aurobindo Pharma director P. Sarath Chandra Reddy.

BRS flays 'undemocratic' arrest of Delhi Deputy CM

Press Trust of India
HYDERABAD

Telangana's ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Sunday condemned the arrest of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia terming it an "undemocratic" move.

In a statement, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao said the BJP resorted to "stealth politics" by inciting Central agencies against the Opposition parties in States where the BJP could not come to power.

The political conspiracies of the BJP against the Opposition had become a deterrent to democracy in the country, he said, adding that Mr. Sisodia was arrested after the BJP's debacle in the Delhi mayoral election and "reprimand" by the Supreme Court.

SC intrigued by the lack of 'protection officers' for domestic violence cases

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought more information from the government about 'Mission Shakti', an umbrella scheme for the safety, security, and empowerment of women, intrigued by a possible chronic shortage in 'protection officers' to deal with domestic violence cases.

A government document in the top court shows that 4.4 lakh cases of domestic assault are pending across a sample 801 districts.

Though most of these districts have 'one-stop centres', established under 'Mission Shakti' to receive victims, there is still a lack of clarity about how many of them actually employ protection officers to effectively help the traumatised survivors. Appointment of protection officers is mandated under Section 8 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Protection officers, who should ideally be women, have a pivotal role under the law. They help victims file complaints, give information to the police, provide immediate protection and support, inform victims about their legal rights and support them through the court proceedings.

Essential tasks

"Protection officers – like the Magistrates – who are tasked with the implementation of the enactment, have been conceived as the backbone to effectuate the law, enacted with laudable objectives, by Parliament," the Supreme Court has said.

Protection officers, who should ideally be women, have a pivotal role from the beginning to the end

Taking on record the government's figures, a Bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta recently calculated that with 4.4 lakh cases pending in 801 districts, a protection officer in each of these districts would be saddled with more than 500 cases. There is an urgent necessity to have more protection officers or the anti-domestic violence law would be reduced to a dead letter, the court indicated.

The court has asked the Secretary of Women and Child Development Ministry to meet with the principal secretaries of all the States. Representatives from the Finance Ministry, National Commission for Women, National Human Rights Commission, Social Justice Ministry and the National Legal Services Authority should attend. The first meeting should be held in three weeks.

The court has asked the government to place on record the current status of 'Mission Shakti', specific information regarding the number of one-stop centres, their staffing pattern and data on distress calls.

The Bench also directed the Centre to disclose details of any common portal or scheme, if any proposed, to be set up concerning domestic violence cases.

The court ordered the government to file its action taken report in six weeks.

Stick to Lokur panel norms for ST list, says RSS-affiliate

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The All India Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (AIVKA), an RSS-affiliate that works for tribal population, in its central executive meeting held earlier this week, passed a proposal that the criteria and procedure prescribed by the law and the Lokur Committee (1965) should be followed while adding new castes to the list of Scheduled Tribes.

The AIVKA maintained that despite having "well explained" parameters on who can be included in an ST list, it was noticed after 1970 that many developed and affluent castes were included too, bypassing the prescribed norms in the face of political gains and pressure from the domineering society.

Sonia Gandhi

'Sonia Gandhi will continue to bless and guide Cong.'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Alka Lamba on Sunday asserted that former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi would continue to "bless and guide" the party in future.

"I had a chance to speak with Sonia Gandhi*ji* for two minutes. Madam, your comment yesterday was interpreted as taking retirement from politics. I am happy to share that Sonia*ji* told me that we will continue to get her blessings and guidance in future," Ms. Lamba said while speaking at the plenary.

Ms. Gandhi was present on stage while Ms. Lamba spoke.

On Saturday, Ms. Gandhi said that it was gratifying to note that her innings concluded with the *Bharat Jodo Yatra*, which has come as a 'turning point'.

While some interpreted this remark as an indication of her impending retirement from politics, a senior leader told *The Hindu* that the reference was to her innings at the party chief.

Rohith Vemula Act, quota in higher judiciary in Cong. promises for social justice

The party promises to recommit itself to resisting the attacks on India's welfare and affirmative action architecture by engaging in constructive politics and implementing creative policies

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Enacting a law named the Rohith Vemula Act "to safeguard the right to education and dignity" for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minorities; creating a dedicated Ministry for the empowerment of OBCs; securing equal access to jobs in the private organised sector for SCs, STs and OBCs and considering reservations in the higher judiciary – these were part of the Congress's resolution on social justice which was adopted at its 85th plenary session that concluded on Sunday.

In what reflects a coordinated effort to check the expanding social base of the BJP and win back traditional supporters among minorities, the Congress resolution on social justice talks of the party recommitting itself to "strongly resist the attacks on India's welfare and affirmative action architecture by engaging in constructive politics and implementing creative policies".

It also talks of reviving scholarships for SCs, STs and OBCs, and including them under the Economically Weaker Section reservations. For the tribes, the party alleged "the BJP government's policies have taken away the rights of Adivasis and other forest dwellers".

Way forward

Highlights of the Congress's resolutions on social justice, agriculture and education

Straight talk: Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi at the party's 85th plenary session in Nava Raipur on Sunday. ANI

- The party promises to bring the **'Rohith Vemula Act'** "to safeguard the right to education and dignity" of SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities
- Create a dedicated **Ministry for the empowerment** of OBCs
- Secure **equal access** to jobs in the private organised sector for SCs, STs and OBCs
- Consider **reservations** for them in the higher judiciary
- Rejects National Education Policy 2020, says it is trying to reduce the entire education to that of literacy, numeracy, and skilling, and aims to **weaken** the public education system
- Make minimum support price for crops a legally **enforceable right** of farmers with any purchase of agricultural produce below it a punishable offence
- Provide one-time immediate relief to farmers from indebtedness by bringing a **debt waiver scheme** to waive up to ₹6 lakh each farmer

Legal mechanism

The draft also makes a mention of mob lynching. "Mob lynching particularly against minorities, atrocities against SCs and STs and violence against women have touched record highs in the last nine years. The sense of insecurity and agony among SC/STs is extremely high because they are being continuously targeted with hate and gruesome violence by the BJP-RSS and their affiliates," it says and expresses commitment "to further strengthen the legal mechanism for ensuring protection of rights of these communities".

A "universal basket of entitlements" has also been talked about for social justice. This makes a mention of Right to Basic Income through the Nyuntam Aay Yojana that is running in Congress-ruled States, while also mentioning Right to Health, Pensions for single women, elderly persons, and Persons with Disabilities.

For women, it talks of history and steps taken by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to provide reservation, and adds that the party shall ensure the passage of the women's reservation Bill in legislative bodies' with appropriate provisions for reserved categories within the 33%.

The highlight of the party's agriculture resolution is making Minimum Support Price for crops a legally enforceable right of farmers, with any purchase of agricultural produce below it a punishable offence.

The Congress also resolved to implement its Udaipur Declaration "in word and spirit". "We recognise that 50 under 50 was a revolutionary concept for the Congress organisation that must be implemented across all party positions from booth level to the Congress Working Committee," its draft resolution for youth says.

Rahul slams Modi, says Adani Group like East India Company

Sandeep Phukan
RAIPUR

> When the British ruled us, was their economy smaller than ours? Do you not fight if someone is stronger? There is a word for this: cowardice

The Union government led by Narendra Modi is handing over the country's wealth to the Adani Group, in the same way the British East India Company had taken it away from India, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said while addressing his party's 85th plenary session on Sunday.

Warning that "history is repeating itself", Mr. Gandhi said that "Modi*ji* and Adani*ji* are one" and that was why the Opposition was not allowed to ask questions about businessman Gautam Adani in Parliament. He asserted that he would continue to ask question about Mr. Adani until the truth came out.

The former Congress president also urged the party leadership to formulate a new plan to carry forward the "*tapasya* (penance)" undertaken through the Bharat Jodo Yatra, indicating that another yatra could be on the cards, along the east-west route this time.

Mr. Gandhi's focus in the 50-minute speech, addressing 17,000-odd delegates, was divided between the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Adani Group.

Talking about the Jammu & Kashmir leg of the yatra, the Congress leader said it made Kashmiri youth carry the National Flag, even in terrorism-affected districts such as Pulwama and Anantnag.

Mr. Gandhi also took on the BJP's nationalism plank by referring to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's recent statement that as China was a big economy, it was common sense not to pick a fight with it.

"When the British ruled us, was their economy smaller than ours? Do you not fight if someone is stronger than you? There is a word for this: cowardice. This is Savarkar's ideology, to bow down before the powerful. An Indian Minister is telling China, 'your economy is bigger and we can't fight with you'. Do you call this nationalism? What kind of patriotism is this?" he asked.

The Adani connection

In the second half of his speech, the Congress leader made a focused attack on the Adani Group and its relations with Mr. Modi and his government.

"When we asked in Parliament, 'what is the Prime Minister's relation with Adani', our entire speech was expunged. [Mallikarjun] Kharge*ji*'s entire speech was expunged. We will ask in Parliament thousands times till the truth of Adani*ji* is out," Mr. Gandhi said. Mr. Gandhi also questioned why Union Ministers had to come to the defence of one businessman.

'ED searches an attack on people of Chhattisgarh'

Shubhomoy Sikdar
Sandeep Phukan
RAIPUR

Calling the recent Enforcement Directorate (ED) searches in Chhattisgarh an attack on the people of the State, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday said that the Centre was using probe agencies to influence the outcome of the Assembly election in the State later this year.

Ms. Vadra made the remarks at a public meeting that was held after the All India Congress Committee's (AICC) 85th plenary session concluded in Nava Raipur. The *Haath Se Haath Jodo Yatra* public meeting, which was skipped by by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, was attended by party president Mallikarjun Kharge, the three Congress Chief Ministers, besides other senior leaders.

The searches by the ED in connection with an alleged illegal coal levy scam were conducted last week. "The attack is not on them [Congress leaders and workers' premises linked to whom were raided], not even on the Congress party, but on all of you, because the whole country knows that the kind of government is there in Chhattisgarh and the manner in which you are getting your rights," Ms. Vadra said.

"They are looking at the elections ahead. They know that the Congress government has been good here and it will win again," she added.

India, U.K agree to make progress on trade pact

Press Trust of India
LONDON

India and the U.K. have agreed to make further progress on the ongoing negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and also to swiftly organise the next bilateral Economic and Financial Dialogue soon, the British government has said.

India recently concluded the seventh round of talks with the U.K. At the end of the U.K. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's India visit for the G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' meeting, the U.K.'s Treasury Department said the Finance Minister had held talks with Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman with a focus on deepening bilateral economic and financial ties.

"At a meeting with Indian Finance Minister Sitharaman, both sides agreed to make further progress on the U.K.-India Free Trade Agreement and deepen bilateral economic and financial ties," the Department said in a statement.

Mr. Hunt also met with business leaders in Bengaluru and visited the offices of Wipro which employs over 4,000 people in the U.K. "Meeting fellow Finance Ministers face to face is an opportunity to make real progress on the key global economic issues," he said.

"It's been great to hear from Indian technology business leaders in Bengaluru how they are pushing the economy forward, and I look forward to further collaboration as we continue to trade and create jobs – delivering on the government's plan to grow the economy," he said.

West Bengal Governor conducts 'inquiry' into attack on Minister

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Nisith Pramanik

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Sunday conducted a "confidential inquiry" into the attack on the convoy of Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Nisith Pramanik, and added that he "will not be a mute witness to any deterioration of law and order anywhere, anytime".

The convoy of Mr. Pramanik, who is also the Bharatiya Janata Party MP for Cooch Behar, was attacked on Saturday. According to the district police, 23 persons were arrested in connection with the violence.

The Governor, while pointing out that violence was not a part of civilised conduct, added that he had personally discussed the issue with Mr. Pramanik. "The Constitution should be upheld by all those who are committed to do so. Bengal expects every officer to do his duty, without fear or favour, be he in the police or magistracy or any wing of governance. Any laxity in the maintenance of law and order will lead to chaos and anarchy, which will never be tolerated," the press statement from the Raj Bhavan said.

Low turnout in Chinchwad, Kasba byelections despite high-decibel campaign

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

NCP leader Ajit Pawar campaigned frenetically to win back his bastion of Chinchwad from BJP

Despite a high-decibel campaign run by both the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena (led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde) and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the keenly contested Kasba Peth and Chinchwad Assembly byelections in Maharashtra saw a lukewarm voter turnout on Sunday. In the Kasba Peth segment in Old Pune, 45.25% voting was reported, while Chinchwad had recorded just 41.1% till 5 p.m., election officials said.

The byelections were necessitated following the demise of BJP MLAs Mukta Tilak (Kasba Peth) and Laxman Jagtap (Chinchwad). The high-stakes polls are expected to impact the forthcoming elections in the State, particularly the crucial civic polls.

Top BJP brass and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde campaigned hard for their candidates, while the MVA leaders, too, strained every sinew in the run-up to the polls – Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis visited Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad for several days ahead of the polls, and the CM held a massive road show in support of the BJP's candidates.

On the MVA side, NCP's Ajit Pawar, who is determined to wrest his 'lost' bastion of Chinchwad from the BJP, campaigned frenetically for the MVA's candidate Nana Kate, who is pitted against the BJP's Ashwini Jagtap (wife of Laxman Jagtap) in Chinchwad.

According to analysts, the Kasba Peth seat, in which the BJP's Hemant Rasane is pitted against the Congress's (MVA's) Ravindra Dhangekar, is likely to be especially close as both candidates are said to be evenly matched.

There are 510 polling centres and 5,68,954 registered voters in Chinchwad and 215 polling centres and 2,75,428 registered voters in Kasba constituency.

Shah to launch 'Nasha Mukti Yatra' in Punjab

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

As it prepares for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the BJP will organise a 'Nasha Mukti Yatra' in Punjab to inform youth about the menace of drugs. BJP leaders will visit all 117 Assembly constituencies in the coming months as part of the yatra.

At a recent zonal meeting of the party in Amritsar, Vijay Rupani, BJP's incharge for Punjab, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah would launch the yatra from Amritsar in March.

He said people of Punjab were facing several problems, including drug abuse, unemployment and deteriorating law and order situation. The BJP, he said, was aware of all these problems and was extremely concerned.

E-mail:-acezoneii@yahoo.com/acejaipur2.pwd-rj
Additional Chief Engineer P.W.D. Zone-II, Jaipur
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Jaipur
Phone :- 0141-2226537 Ex.:-299
File No-2689 Date : 20-02-2023
Short-Term NIB No-35/2022-23
Bids for 02 no. Road Works in Jaipur District are invited from interested bidders upto 6-00PM on 08-03-2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2427.53 lacs.
UBN : PWD2223WLOB16741
PWD2223WLOB16742
Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD Zone-II, Jaipur
DIPR/C/2916

Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society
Government of Andhra Pradesh
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS) through this Request for Proposal (RFP) is inviting Bids from Interested Agency(s) for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of below mentioned Four (04) Common facility integrated production centers (includes Plant & Machinery) in Andhra Pradesh on LICENCE, OPERATE, VACATE MODEL for a Block Period of 15 Years as per the terms and conditions laid down in the RFP.
1) Common Facility Integrated Production Center for Banana & Other Fruits at Pulivendula, YSR DISTRICT.
2) Common Facility Integrated Production Center for Various Fruits And Vegetable Processing At Pileru, Rajampet, Annamayya District.
3) Common Facility Integrated Production Center for Spices Processing At Nekarikallu, Narsaraopet, Palnadu District.
4) Common Facility Integrated Production Center for Tomato Processing At Peapully, Nandyal District
Interested Agencies are requested to access the RFP documents individually at the below mentioned link and send the bids on or before the due date as mentioned in the respective document(s).
The RFP document along with the Project information can be accessed from https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in or https://apfps.ap.gov.in from 27-02-2023, 16:00 Hrs
For queries, please write to: fps-ap@nic.in, apfps@yahoo.com
Contact: Mr. Bharat Kumar Thota, Ph: 6309501007/ Mr. Rahul Reddy, Ph: 9634506369
Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, APFPS

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग भरतपुर
क्रमांकः- अमुअ/भरत/त.स./2022-23/ डी- 4095 दिनांक 17.02.2023
निविदा सूचना संख्या 24/(पीएमजीएसवाई-III) (Batch-1)/2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमन्त्री ग्राम सड़क योजना (पीएमजीएसवाई - III) (Batch-1) के अन्तर्गत सडक चौड़ाईकरण एवं सुदृढीकरण हेतु मय पाँच साल की मरम्मत के लिए प्रतिशत दर के अनुसार कुल 01 पैकेज (शेष कार्य) अनुमानित लागत राशि रू0 1082.00 लाख के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in, "www.sppp.raj.nic.in व www.pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता हैं। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट www.pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक हैं।
NIB No. - PWD2223A4227, UBN No. - PWD2223WLOB16549
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सानिवि संभाग भरतपुर
DIPR/C/2892/23

As part of Banjara community outreach, Union govt. to mark Sant Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a first, the Union government on Sunday kicked off year-long celebrations to mark the 284th birth anniversary of Santh Sevalal Maharaj, a spiritual and religious leader of the Banjara community, a nomadic community that has been declared a Scheduled Tribe (ST) in a few States of India.

This comes within weeks of efforts from an RSS-linked outfit to cement the community's inclusion in the Hindu fold - a move that has irked some within the community who have said that these efforts amounted to "*Hinduisation*" of their culture, which had nothing to do with Hinduism.

The Banjara community have been declared as ST in five States (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand), Scheduled Caste in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, and Other Backward Class (OBC) in Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand.

The Union Ministry of Culture on Sunday kicked-off the celebrations at Dr. BR Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, where cultural and dance programmes will be performed along with an exhibition of Banjara art for two days (February 26 and 27). Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with MoS Culture Meenakshi Lekhi, are expected to attend the event on Monday along with other Cabinet Ministers.

Two connected with Moosewala murder killed in Punjab jail

Press Trust of India
AMRITSAR

Two gangsters, who were held in connection with singer Sidhu Moosewala murder case and lodged in the Goindwal Sahib Central Jail in Tarn Taran district of Punjab, were killed in a clash among inmates on Sunday, police said.

They were facing other charges as well, Senior Superintendent of Police Gurmeet Singh Chauhan said.

One inmate was injured in the fight, he said, adding that all the three belonged to the same group. Moosewala was shot dead in Mansa district on May 29, 2022.

Mr. Chauhan said the deceased have been identified as Mandeep Singh alias Toofan of Batala and Manmohan Singh alias Mohna.

Another inmate Keshav was critically injured in the clash and rushed to a hospital here, the police said.

Sources said the clash took place among the inmates over some matter and soon the situation took an ugly turn. Utensils and iron rods were used during the fight inside the high-security jail, they said.

INBRIEF

Danish Crown Prince and Princess on a 4-day India visit

Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik André Henrik Christian and Crown Princess Mary Elizabeth arrived in India on Sunday on a four-day visit. It is the first visit by the Danish Royal family to India in two decades. The two are visiting the country at the invitation of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The royal couple will depart from Chennai on March 2. "During the visit, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince will meet the Vice-President and address the opening session of the 'India-Denmark: Partners for Green and Sustainable Progress', organised by CII. He will also call-on President Droupadi Murmu," the MEA had said on Tuesday. PTI

Union government denies any move to ban onion export

The Union government has maintained that there is no move to ban the export of onions. Responding to a statement by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Supriya Sule that the government is trying to ban onion export, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said there is no ban on the exports from India to any country and misleading statements suggesting the contrary was unfortunate. He said from July-December 2022, onion exports have consistently been above the $40 million mark every month, benefiting the farmers. The Commerce Ministry added that onions worth $523.8 million were exported between April and December 2022.

J&K sacks 3 govt. employees for 'anti-national' activities

Three more government employees, including a junior engineer and a teacher, were terminated from their services on the basis of reports prepared by the security agencies in J&K under the special provisions of Article 311, which does not require any departmental inquiry. A J&K government spokesman said the sacked employees were "involved in anti-national activities". "The activities of these employees had come to the adverse notice of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as they found them involved in activities prejudicial to the interests of the State," the spokesman said.

Death of ex-APPSC officer: police register murder case

The Arunachal Pradesh police on Saturday decided to treat the death of Tumi Gangkak, an Undersecretary suspended from the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) after the question papers for a recruitment exam were leaked in 2022, as a case of murder. Gangkak was found dead near the Itanagar Zoo on February 24, the night after a "mysterious" phone call made him leave his home. The call was from a sub-inspector attached to the State Police's Special Investigation Cell (SIC). "Two SIC sub-inspectors, Tapun Messar and Bomchu Krong, have been detained for questioning in this case," a senior police officer said.

Not derailed by time, Kolkata trams strut their stuff

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The people of Kolkata on Sunday witnessed a parade of trams when eight-car rakes criss-crossed the north and south of the city. Hundreds of people jostled to ride on them and participate in the parade, a grand event to mark the completion of 150 years of tram services in Kolkata.

The 100-year-old Tram Scrubber used to clean the tracks, trams named Chaitali, Balaka, Bioscope, Partition Museum and Art Gallery and an air-conditioned car – they were all part of the parade that chugged from Gariahat in the south to Esplanade in the city's centre and then Shyam Bazaar in the north. The parade that started in the morning concluded at the Nonapukur Tram Depot in the afternoon.

The parade aimed to revive the interest of people in trams at a time when the mode of transport is on its last legs. It was the culmination of weeks of planning and work by tram enthusiasts.

Etched in history: People clicking pictures of trams during a parade as part of the 150th anniversary, in Kolkata on Sunday. PTI

Things of the past

Inside the dark, dimly lit shed of the Nonapukur depot, where dozens of old and rusty trams have been parked for decades, a group of youngsters in their 20s were busy decorating a few trams on February 23. It has been long since these trams had disappeared from the city's roads but the eyes of the young tram enthusiasts lit up as they spoke of them.

"This one was built by Burn & Standard in the late 1980s and was used in the West Bengal Tourism Department advertisement featuring Shah Rukh Khan," aspiring filmmaker Kushang Banerjee (23) said. Akash Ray (25), while pointing at a cream-and-pink tram, explained what was unique about the K-class and L-class trams of the 1930s and 1940s, and why some were called *Hathigari* because of their shape.

Along with several old tram cars at the depot, which looks like a graveyard for trams, there is a green watering car used to wash tram tracks, and two rail scrubbers which were used to clean tram tracks – both of which are over a century old. Not just in India but in all of Asia, Kolkata is the only city to have a functional tram network. The first tram service started in Kolkata on February 24, 1873 when a horse-drawn carriage pulled tram cars from Sealdah to Armenian Street.

When only a few hours were left to complete the decoration of trams, Roberto D'Andrea, a former tram driver and conductor from Melbourne, arrived-. Dressed in a T-shirt that said 'Kolkata-Melbourne Tramjatra', Mr. D'Andrea, like the youngsters, is a member of the Calcutta Tram Users Association (CTUA), and has visited Kolkata 29 times to promote the cause of trams in the city.

"Through the Tramjatra, which coincides with 150 years of Kolkata Tramways, we have once again started a debate around the utility of trams. We hope that it will give desired results," Mr. D'Andrea said. "When several cities in the world are switching to trams for cleaner modes of transport, Kolkata is going completely against the global trend," the Australian national added.

Heritage or service?

On Friday, members of the CTUA, along with West Bengal Transport Minister Snehasish Chakraborty, inaugurated the 'Tramjatra', and during the event the Minister emphasised that trams will remain functional in the city as a part of its heritage. "I am not here to say farewell to trams. Trams will remain in Kolkata with its heritage," Mr. Chakraborty said.

The CTUA members and tram enthusiasts are, however, opposed to the idea that trams should only be treated as a part of the city's heritage.

"The utility of tram services is being undermined by only describing trams as something to do with heritage," Debasish Bhattacharya, president of CTUA, said. He said the operational routes are also truncated and since the State government is not undertaking any new appointments of tram drivers and conductors, it is not serious about operating trams.

U.P. has come a long way from image of mafia rule: PM

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the Uttar Pradesh government's Rozgar Mela, on Sunday said the State was now recognised for its improved law and order, which resulted in new opportunities of investment and employment.

Addressing a programme to distribute appointment letters to 9,055 sub-inspectors of the civil police, platoon commanders, PAC, and fire officers selected by the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board, through a video message, Mr. Modi said, "The State has come a long way since its earlier image of mafia rule. It had created new opportunities for employment, business and investment through a development-oriented approach."

He said lakhs of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) were registered in Uttar Pradesh and the State was playing a leading role in the start-up ecosystem for new entrepreneurs.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the State was moving forward on 'Mission Employment' with the inspiration of Mr. Modi and added security and rule of law were the prerequisites for good governance.

Mann says Pak., other nations are funding Khalistan supporters

The Punjab police are capable of handling the issue, says the CM; only a handful of persons have been supporting the movement in the State

Press Trust of India
BHAVNAGAR

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday said Khalistan supporters were getting funding from Pakistan and other countries, amid the ongoing turmoil in his State surrounding the recent activities of Khalistani sympathiser Amritpal Singh and his supporters.

Without revealing any concrete strategy to tackle Khalistani elements, Mr. Mann, who was in Gujarat, said the Punjab police were capable of handling the issue and only a handful of persons were supporting the pro-Khalistan movement in Punjab.

"Do you think 1,000 people [who have been seen shouting pro-Khalistan slogans] represent the entire Punjab? You come to Punjab and see for yourselves who all are shouting such slogans," Mr. Mann said when asked what he had to say about pro-Khalistan slogans being raised in his State after Mr. Singh's episode.

He was addressing a press conference at Bhavnagar of Gujarat.

> Those who took the Sikh holy book to the police station as a shield cannot be called *waris* (heir) of Punjab
>
> **BHAGWANT MANN**
> Punjab Chief Minister

"Only a handful of persons are behind this and they run their shops through funding from Pakistan and other foreign countries," the Chief Minister added.

'Minor incident'

Referring to Khalistani sympathiser Amritpal Singh and his supporters' act of bringing a copy of the Guru Granth Sahib inside a police station in Ajnala on the outskirts of Amritsar recently, Mr. Mann said those who took the Sikh holy book to the police station as a shield cannot be called as *waris* (heir) of Punjab.

The Chief Minister also termed the incident as a minor one and downplayed Singh's alleged threat of more violence in coming days.

"This is *khayali pulao* (daydreaming). Punjab has seen such black days in the past. The Punjab police are capable of handling them and we will never allow anyone to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere," he said.

'Will shine again'

Mr. Mann further said that thanks to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, many industries were coming, including Tata Steel and entities from other countries.

"Had Punjab's situation been so bad, these industries may not have been coming to Punjab. Even NRIs are coming back and those who planned to settle abroad have now cancelled their plans. Punjab will shine again after six-seven months," the Chief Minister said.

eSanjeevani is a great boon, shows power of digital India: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 98th episode of his radio address *Mann Ki Baat*, said experiments such as the eSanjeevani application had ensured medical services to people living in far-flung areas of the country. He said the *Mann Ki Baat* had been a wonderful platform as an expression of public participation.

"Every month, in millions of messages, the *Mann Ki Baat* of lots of people reaches me. You know the power of your mind... Similarly, how the might of the country increases with the strength of society... This we have seen and understood in different episodes of *Mann Ki Baat* and I have experienced it – have also accepted it," Mr. Modi said.

> Till now, the number of tele-consultants using this app has crossed the figure of 10 crore... An amazing bond between patient and doctor – this is a big achievement
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

Tele-consultation

Talking about the eSanjeevani app, he said the power of Digital India was visible in every corner. "Through this app, teleconsultation, that is, while sitting far away, through videoconferencing, you can consult a doctor about your illness. Till now, the number of tele-consultants using this app has crossed the figure of 10 crore. You can imagine!... 10 crore consultations through videoconference... An amazing bond between patient and doctor – this is a big achievement," Mr. Modi said.

Congratulating doctors and patients for such an achievement, he said eSanjeevani was a living example of how the people of India had made technology a part of their lives.

"We have seen that in the time of COVID-19, eSanjeevani app has proved to be a great boon for the people," the Prime Minister said.

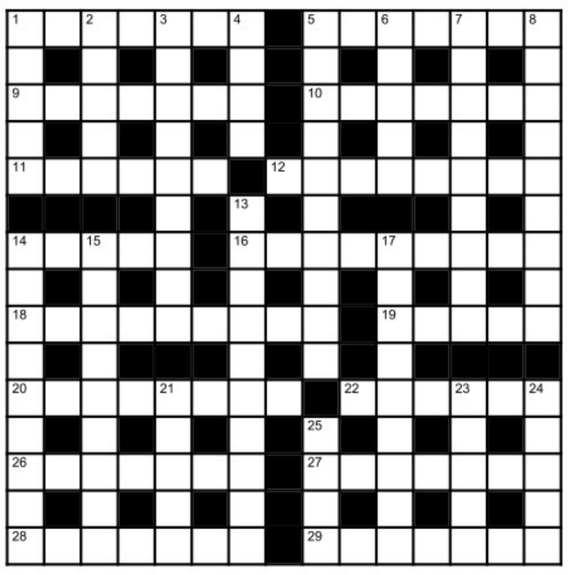
Talking to a doctor and a patient who use the application in the programme, he said eSanjeevani was becoming a life-saving app for the common man of the country, for the middle class, for the people living in hilly areas. "This is the power of India's digital revolution. And today we are seeing its effect in every field," the Prime Minister added.

TH CROSSWORD + 13799

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Down time man got in concern (7)
5 Live match played around Thane (7)
9 Movie managed to show fashionable mom (4,3)
10 Closer to Sunday, shelter's wide open (7)
11 Like old people retiring in loneliness (6)
12 Doctor strange to entertain one most furious (8)
14 Suspect fellow reserved after lunch time (5)
16 Silence Spooner's soggy comic (9)
18 They love travelling most in car (9)
19 Filled in new dates (5)
20 Boxer with others near the French riviera initially (8)
22 Text message entertaining mostly old jerks (6)
26 Top soldiers wearing disheartened recruit's clothing (7)
27 Stoked by family switching sides (7)
28 Detest rude lady eating dessert (7)
29 A little birthday party with workers in the middle (7)

Down

1 Branches supporting peak sales at last (5)
2 Clay, perhaps regularly seen as outsider (5)
3 Lost yak, tailless animal chasing herd at the top of mountain range (9)
4 Hire 26 without purpose (4)
5 Can work in a store initially entering unit for dressing (10)
6 Cringe when caught with debtor (5)
7 Reduced excess due to diet changes (6,3)
8 Noted to become stylish (4-5)
13 Casual criminal behind passport, say seized by force (10)
14 Explosives in sacks retaining charge (9)
15 Waiter starting to serve more lime cocktails (9)
17 Held over mail torn open by day (9)
21 Leaning right into nurse (5)
23 City of hot males (5)
24 Brown, perhaps under empty salvage car (5)
25 Fine American saves recipe for vegetable (4)

SUDOKU

		8	9				6	
					7			
5	4							2
8		2		3	5	6		
		6	8		2	3		
		5	6	7		1		8
2							8	9
			7					
	6				9	4		

No.SS5722 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	I	T	S	T	O	P	S	■	L	A	M	B	D	A
A	■	A	■	E	■	L	■	B	■	I	■	U	■	S
R	E	M	O	R	S	E	■	R	E	S	I	D	E	S
A	■	A	■	M	■	A	■	E	■	L	■	A	■	O
D	I	L	L	I	■	B	E	E	K	E	E	P	E	R
E	■	E	■	N	■	A	■	D	■	■	■	E	■	T
■	■	■	M	A	R	R	Y	I	N	H	A	S	T	E
E	■	O	■	T	■	G	■	N	■	O	■	T	■	D
M	I	C	H	E	L	A	N	G	E	L	O	■	■	■
P	■	C	■	■	■	I	■	G	■	O	F	■	B	■
H	E	A	D	L	I	N	E	R	■	G	R	O	W	L
A	■	S	■	A	■	I	■	O	■	R	■	N	■	I
S	M	I	T	T	E	N	■	U	G	A	N	D	A	N
I	■	O	■	H	■	G	■	N	■	M	■	U	■	D
S	E	N	T	I	N	■	O	D	Y	S	S	E	Y	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	4	1	6	7	3	2	8
8	1	6	2	9	3	7	5	4
2	7	3	8	5	4	9	6	1
1	8	7	9	3	6	2	4	5
9	3	5	4	1	2	8	7	6
6	4	2	5	7	8	1	3	9
3	6	1	7	4	9	5	8	2
4	5	8	3	2	1	6	9	7
7	2	9	6	8	5	4	1	3

FAITH

Reciting Sundarakandam

The distinction between good and bad, righteousness and unrighteousness, virtue and vice, dos and don'ts are all well explained in Vedas. Whether we know them or not, with or without our knowledge we follow to some extent the paths shown by Vedas. Smrithis are like the epilogues explaining the meaning of Vedas through stories. Upanishad says *Sathyam Vadha* – speak the truth – is demonstrated through the story of Harischandra. Extracting the essence of Vedas, Ithihasas like the Ramayana and the Mahabharatha created a kind of connectivity to Vedas by telling the happenings of the history. They are all the practical guide for us to lead a good and pious life.

All the spiritual powers that Vedas do possess are equally present in the Ramayana. Sage Naradha says the Ramayana is pure (*pavithram*). It has been in practice reading the Ramayana and more specifically, the Sundarakandam. By reading, it is believed that our long pending problems are solved and obstacles removed (*Kashta Nivruthi*) and our legitimate desires are fulfilled (*Karya Siddhi*). The reason for the divinity of Sundarakandam is that Lord who removes all our difficulties was in a great distress, not able to find His wife Sri Sita and how Hanuman helped Him find was well narrated. Rama told Hanuman that He would give Himself to him while His divine consort told Hanuman that she became ecstatic and Her sorrow was removed on seeing him, said Sri Damodara Dhikshithar in a discourse. Sundarakandam contains 68 chapters and one of the several ways of reciting is to render for 68 days covering 7 chapters a day and the cycle will complete 7 times of recitation.

LAGOS

Nigeria awaits results after tightly fought Presidential elections

AFP

Nigeria began to announce early results on Sunday after a tight poll for the presidency of Africa's most populous nation, as concerns grew over voting deakys and accusations of attempts to manipulate tallies. The election went ahead mostly peacefully, despite some ransacked polling stations and late starts at many others. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. papers drop 'Dilbert' cartoon after its creator's racist remarks

REUTERS

Multiple U.S. newspapers have said they will stop publishing the popular "Dilbert" comic strip after its creator posted a video calling Black people a "hate group". Scott Adams, who rose to fame in the 1990s with his satirical take on white-collar office life, has increasingly stoked controversy with his views on social issues. AFP

COLOMBO

15 hurt after Sri Lanka police fire tear gas to break up poll protest

AFP

The police in Sri Lanka on Sunday fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse protesters angry over a decision to postpone local elections after the government said it cannot finance them because of the country's crippling economic crisis. About 15 people were treated for minor injuries in the protest aftermath. AP

KATHMANDU

RPP decides to withdraw support from Prachanda-led govt. in Nepal

REUTERS

The Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (PPP), a key partner in the seven-party ruling alliance in Nepal, has decided to withdraw its support to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'-led government, citing changes in the political equation. On Saturday, four Ministers from the RPP had submitted their resignations .PTI

59 dead, dozens missing as migrant boat breaks apart off Italy coast

Survivors, close to 80, say the boat set out from Turkey five days ago with more than 200 people on board; a person suspected to be a trafficker taken into custody; passengers belonged to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia

Associated Press
ROME

A wooden boat crowded with migrants smashed into rocky reefs and broke apart before dawn on Sunday off the Italian coast, authorities said. Rescuers recovered nearly 60 bodies, and dozens more people were missing in the rough waters.

Officials feared the death toll could top 100 since some survivors indicated the boat had as many as 200 passengers when it set out from Turkey, the United Nations refugee and migration agencies said.

At least 80 people were found alive, including some who reached the shore after the shipwreck just off Calabria's coastline along the Ionian Sea, the Italian Coast Guard said.

Treacherous voyage: Rescued migrants sit covered in blankets at a beach near Cutro in southern Italy on Sunday. AP

As sundown approached, firefighters said 59 bodies had been found.

One man was taken into custody for questioning after fellow survivors indicated he was a trafficker, state TV said.

The boat collided with the reefs in rough, wind-whipped seas. Three big chunks of the vessel ended up on the beach near the town of Steccato di Cutro, where splintered pieces of bright blue wood littered the sand like matchsticks.

"All of the survivors are adults," Red Cross volunteer Ignazio Mangione said. "Unfortunately, all the children are among the missing or were found dead on the beach." A baby was reported among the dead.

Motorboats were expected to continue searching through the night, despite worsening weather conditions. Rescue divers struggled with tall waves.

Italian state TV quoted survivors as saying the boat had set out five days earlier from Turkey.

More than 170 migrants were estimated to have been aboard the ship, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration said in a joint statement.

Among them were "children and entire families," according to the UN statement, with most of the passengers from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia.

In a statement released by the Prime Minister's office on Sunday, Giorgia Meloni expressed "her deep sorrow for the many human lives torn away by human traffickers."

Russia accuses U.S. and allies of 'open blackmail' ahead of G-20 Foreign Ministers' meet

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A day after the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Bengaluru failed to issue a joint communique, Russia praised the role of the Indian Presidency and accused the Western countries of "open blackmail". A statement from Moscow's Foreign Ministry said Russia and China protested against the U.S. and its allies, accusing them of sowing "enmity and hatred".

"Through open blackmail and dictate, throwing in absurd interpretations of the situation in Ukraine, the Westerners once again disrupted the adoption of collective decisions," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. The statement called on the "collective West to abandon its destructive course as soon as possible" and build "normal relations with new centers of power in the international arena, such as Russia." The sharp attack by Russia has set the tone for the March 1-2 G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting to be held here.

Objective of G-20

Discussions at the FMCBG so far have indicated that the Western powers led by the U.S. and the U.K. have taken a stance showing the Russians as the invading side in Ukraine whose actions have led to the larger global economic distress. The Russians on the other hand indicate that they are not willing to allow "international security" to dominate the G-20 which was conceived as a platform to discuss the "global economy".

The Russian Foreign Ministry has lauded the Indian actions at the FMCBG saying, "We note the constructive role of the Indian Presidency, which strove for a fair consideration of interests and positions of all countries. The balanced approaches formulated in this context create a good foundation for responding to modern challenges in the area of global finance and related sectors, including support for economic growth and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

Despite crisis, it's a good time to invest in Sri Lanka, say Colombo-based Indian CEOs

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is reeling under last year's crushing economic meltdown and consequent political turmoil, but it is still a good time to invest in the cash-strapped island nation, according to Indian business leaders in capital Colombo.

While acknowledging the many challenges facing the business community in Sri Lanka, the CEOs of Indian companies point to "enormous scope" for foreign direct investment in a host of sectors, such as information technology, tourism, and renewable energy. Investor sentiment outside Sri Lanka was rather negative last year, "mainly due to the kind of international media coverage of the crisis here", but there is a "welcome, positive shift" compared to June last year, when the crisis escalated, notes Ashish Chandra, CEO and MD, Airtel Lanka. "Essential supplies have been restored, there is no social unrest, and the government has taken many important steps for economic recovery," he says.

Team effort: Members of Indian CEO Forum with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Colombo in January. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Appealing factors

T.S. Prakash, country head of the Umesh Modi Group of Companies, cites "political stability and policy stability" as the two main factors that businesses look for. "We are confident that the Sri Lankan authorities are taking the right steps to achieve both in the next few years," he says.

On the policy front, President Ranil Wickremesinghe recently said his government has implemented 15 tasks – including a sharp increase in interest rates, and in fuel and energy pricing – set out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), whose $2.9 billion package Sri Lanka is desperately hoping for, to expedite its economic recovery.

Reasons for optimism

However the Indian businessmen's optimism, they say, stems from their experience of doing business in Sri Lanka for decades, in sectors spanning transportation, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and technology. "We have seen ups and downs but where there is a problem, there is certainly an opportunity," says Mr. Prakash, who is also the President of the Indian CEO Forum that includes leaders of 70 companies.

Of those, 38 are Indian companies and the rest are multinational corporations led by Indians based in Sri Lanka. Representatives of this organised forum for Indian businesses in Sri Lanka, set up 10 years ago, periodically meet with the Sri Lankan authorities, at the highest levels.

"The standard of living is very good. Citizens have an admirable civic sense, it is a safe country," says Umesh Gautam, CEO, Lanka Ashok Leyland, one of the oldest Indian investments in Sri Lanka.

According to Kishore D. Reddy, Managing Director, Platinum Realty Investments and President, Sri Lanka India Society, the nearly 70 companies that are part of the Indian CEO Forum employ about 20,000 Sri Lankans. "And importantly, there were no layoffs during the pandemic or the economic crisis, in any of our companies."

It is not that business was smooth for the Indian companies during the crisis. The import restrictions and the rise in costs since certainly impacted production, but the Indian investments carried on. At the height of the crisis last year, the Life Insurance Corporation of India approved an investment of LKR 600 million (roughly ₹13.2 crore) in LIC Lanka.

The business heads underscore the need for some structural changes in Sri Lanka to augment foreign investments. The ease of doing business must improve, they underscore, suggesting that a single window regulatory process be put in place to help save costs and time, and give incentives for new investors to come in.

Israelis and Palestinians pledge to curb violence

Reuters
AMMAN

Israel committed to stop the authorisation of any settler outposts in the occupied West Bank for six months during a meeting on Sunday with Palestinian officials in Jordan when the sides pledged to de-escalate violence.

In a joint statement at the end of a meeting in Aqaba, Israel and Palestinian officials said they would work closely to prevent "further violence" and "reaffirmed the necessity of committing to de-escalation on the ground".

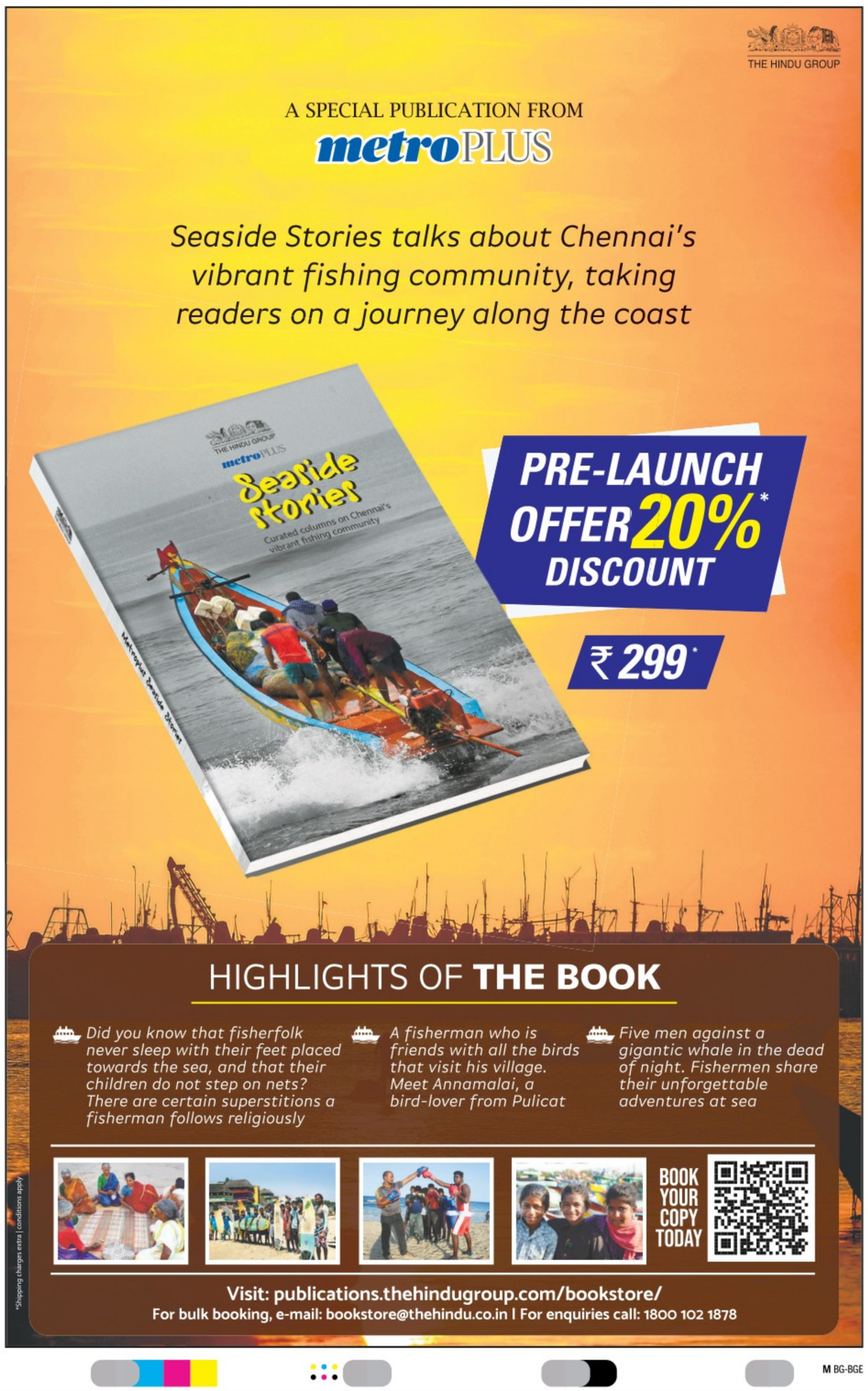
Jordan, along with Egypt and the U.S., considered "these understandings as major progress towards re-establishing and deepening relations between the two sides". The meeting was held in the run-up to the holy Muslim month of Ramadan that begins in March.

Five killed in bombing in Pakistan market

Associated Press
QUETTA

A bombing at a crowded bazaar in southwestern Pakistan on Sunday killed at least five persons and wounded 16, authorities said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Barkhan, about 600 km northeast of Quetta, the provincial capital.


THE HINDU GROUP
A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM
metroPLUS
Seaside Stories talks about Chennai's vibrant fishing community, taking readers on a journey along the coast
THE HINDU GROUP
metroPLUS
Seaside Stories
Curated columns on Chennai's vibrant fishing community
PRE-LAUNCH OFFER 20%* DISCOUNT
₹ 299*
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOOK
Did you know that fisherfolk never sleep with their feet placed towards the sea, and that their children do not step on nets? There are certain superstitions a fisherman follows religiously
A fisherman who is friends with all the birds that visit his village. Meet Annamalai, a bird-lover from Pulicat
Five men against a gigantic whale in the dead of night. Fishermen share their unforgettable adventures at sea
BOOK YOUR COPY TODAY
*Shipping charges extra | conditions apply
Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/
For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in | For enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

ASKUS

Vidya Bala

Q I am 31 and I work for an IT employer. I was recently blessed with a baby girl. I wanted to start a monthly investment plan for her education/marriage purpose.
I heard about Sukanya Samruddhi Yojana plan, but need your advice on this plan. Is there any other alternative to SSY in the market with better ROI considering the inflation impact in the coming years for my daughter? Finally, I am planning to buy an EV bike. Is it advisable to buy this bike through a vehicle loan? If so, will there be any tax benefit for me?
PRADOSH

A Congratulations to the new parents! Yes, you can start off investments with Sukanya Samruddhi although the lock in up to the age of 21 (partial withdrawal at 18 allowed under certain circumstances) is a bit of a deterrent. In addition to SSY, you can consider investing in simple index funds such as the Nifty 50, Nifty 500 and any passive international index fund (like the Nasdaq 100 or S&P 500) that is available for investment today. Please note that many international funds are closed for fresh inflows at present, given regulatory cap on investment. Hence check the ones currently available on your platform. On EV bike, there used to be tax benefits, but I do not see those being included in the recent Finance Bill. Hence, please check with your auditor. A discretionary expense that can be postponed is best done through savings than loans.

Q I am 25 and I work in an IT company and earn around 70k per month. My current savings are RD, PPF, mutual funds (yet to invest in index funds), stock market at times in equity collectively counts to about 25k/per month. I feel I need to rebalance my portfolio in order to save better in future. Suggestions please?
KAVIPRIYA

A You have the solution yourself when you mentioned index funds. If you would like to keep it simple and yet improve the returns of your portfolio, you can cut down on RD as well as PPF (if you already have EPF for your tax needs) and increase investments in mutual funds with focus on simple, market cap-based index funds such as Nifty 50, Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty 500. Please make sure you have a health insurance outside of work and if you have dependents have a term insurance. These will also meet your tax deduction needs and help you focus the rest of your savings in higher yielding investments. Depending on your risk-taking ability have at least 40-50% in fixed income products such as deposits and PPF. Rest can be in equity funds - active and passive. Based on your commitments you can also raise your savings to 40-50% of your total earnings. It is the early years where you will have this leeway with less commitments.

Q I am working in the banking sector and my monthly income is 74K. I am the only earning member in my family at present. My question is whether I can go for a housing loan of ₹30 lakh for tax saving. I have already invested 80c, 80D, kindly suggest.
M. VADIVEL

A Never make the mistake of buying a home for the sake of saving taxes. You should buy one only when you think you really need one to live and if you are confident your EMI will not eat into all your savings. With the recent thrust on the government to promote new tax regime, where there are no deductions, if the old tax regime is phased out, you might even lose this deduction. Also, it is not a good idea to plan to take on a huge commitment for the sake of saving taxes. Instead, use tax saving instruments such as ELSS, PPF and invest in high returning options such as index mutual funds and try to increase your savings and investments. As the only earning member, it is more important to save for a rainy day than take on commitments to avoid taxes.

(The writer is co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Investors' Russian roulette: Discounted cash flow

It is difficult for even the most seasoned investors to pinpoint future events, including earnings, revenues, costs, and not to mention exogenous macroeconomic conditions

VALUING STOCKS

Anand Srinivasan
Sashwath Swaminathan

> The intrinsic value of a stock is the theoretical price a company's share is worth after factoring in all the available information

> George Soros highlights that investors are reflexive and fallible leading to the prevailing views causing irrational exuberance and panic

Most investors would agree that there is no silver bullet for valuing companies.

The intrinsic value of a stock is the theoretical price a share of a particular company is worth after factoring in all available information. However, this concept is speculative and not an exact science.

The opaque nature of intrinsic values comes from the fact that it is difficult for even the most seasoned investors to pinpoint future events, including revenues, costs, and exogenous macroeconomic conditions. Successful investor-turned-philanthropist George Soros highlighted the fickle prospect of turning a profit in the market through reflexivity and fallibility. In his book "The Alchemy of Finance," he states that, unlike physics, the markets factor in information about their surroundings and themselves, constantly leading to positive feedback loops.

Cheaper capital

For example, if the general market believes a particular company will do well in the coming years, it might increase its market value. Additionally, this impetus now leads to the company being able to borrow more capital at cheaper rates, get favourable credit ratings due to its valuation, etc. which leads to positive results. Once the prevailing perspective is validated, the market rewards the company with greater valuations and other positive developments, which keeps the cycle going. This is the essence of a positive feedback loop, making it more difficult for investors to predict future measures. Moreover, Mr. Soros highlights that investors are fallible leading to prevailing views causing irrational exuberance and panic.

Investors have devised many systematic valuation methods to cope with uncertainty. Benjamin Graham famously focused on net working capital and tried to find "cigarette butts with one last puff in them." The strategy involves finding small-cap companies with a stock price below their 'excellent' fundamentals

Warren Buffet and Charlie Munger drifted away from this model and worked instead with a model where they would identify companies with excellent fundamentals and prospects with fair prices.

As John Maynard Keynes said, "it is better to be roughly right than precisely wrong".

One model Warren Buffet and Charlie Munger use is called the discounted cash flow method. According to Mr. Buffet, the model breaks down investing to its basic idea: "the art of laying out cash now to get a whole lot more cash later on, and something at some point better deliver cash."

The discounted cash flow model projects a company's earnings over the next 10 years and a terminal year, after which it discounts each year's earnings back to its present value through the weighted average cost of capital (the average cost of capital for a firm to raise funds).

The next step would involve aggregating these returns and accounting for any premiums imposed due to estimated risk factors (an optional step in which Mr. Buffet does not believe). Finally, the present value is then divided by the number of stocks present to get the intrinsic value of a specific stock.

The Adani group of companies have recently been the target of a negative reflexive cycle triggered by a scathing report by the short-selling firm Hindenburg. Over the past decade, the Adani group had enjoyed a meteoric rise due to a positive feedback cycle arguably initiated by political capital.

Nevertheless, professor Aswath Damodaran recently posted his valuation report on Adani Enterprises, stating that the firm was worth ₹948 per share instead of its then current market value of ₹1,719.

He made this claim based on his calculations, assuming a weighted average cost of capital of 10% terminally and a growth rate of 4.6% in revenue terminally. Additionally, Devina Mehra, founder of First Global, pointed out that merely tweaking the weighted average cost of capital to 12% (which is reasonable considering the risk-free rate in India is trailing its long-term average) would lead to a valuation of ₹645 instead. Even if one assumes constant increases in revenue, it is admittedly impractical for a model to have such wide variations in valuation.

Uncertain times

Regardless of whether their estimates of Adani Enterprises were accurate, the bigger picture here is an environment of uncertainty that plagues all investors. In such a scenario, it is prudent for the investor to refer to Mr. Keynes's and Mr. Buffet's advice and focus on being roughly correct rather than precisely wrong. The emphasis on exact valuations can lead investors astray in an already confusing market.

As Charlie Munger says, investing boils down to laying out some money now for a lot more later, despite what means one uses to get there.

(Anand Srinivasan is a financial consultant and Sashwath Swaminathan is a research assistant at Aionion Investment Services)

Gains and losses

COVERNOTE

Buy insurance because you need it, buy what you need and how much you need. Purchasing a policy should not lead to regret nor be self-defeating. Handle the investment responsibly.

K. Nitya Kalyani

Not buying an insurance policy can turn out to be sad. Buying the wrong policy can be self-defeating. But have you heard stories about buying the right policy still leading to regret? Here we go.

In the mid-nineties, a new tax rebate was introduced for pension policy premiums, over and above Section 80C rebates, including for life insurance premium. It was used as an effective marketing tool by the insurance field personnel and welcomed by the customers, of course.

I was ready to invest ₹30,000 a year on this policy but my agent actually dissuaded me saying that only premium up to ₹10,000 would get a tax-break. He instead guided me to other investments.

Two decades later when the policy vested, and the pension payments started, I was aghast at the high return on that policy compared to current dismal returns. If only I had committed my ₹30,000, I could have been thrice richer each month!

No tax breaks

The new tax regime, optional for now with indications that it will replace the old, does away with tax breaks relating to insurance premiums. This includes life insurance, hospitalisation insurance and annuity policies.

Under this, insurance decisions become clearly focussed. Buy insurance because you need it, buy what you need and how much you need.

You will clearly see the *maya* of insurance bundled with investment presented on the basis of returns some times, tax benefit some times and risk protection some times.

Now you will be able to ensure your premium is cost-efficient in purchasing the best risk protection.

Tax benefits on claims

That was premium, what about claims. There are tax benefits on claims/ proceeds under insurance policies under Section 10 (10D).

The new Budget says that proceeds from life insurance policies, other than unit-linked policies, issued on or after April 1, 2023, where the aggregate premium is more than ₹5 lakh a year is taxable. The exception to this is death claims.

Claims paid under general insurance policies which are indemnity policies in nature, (that is, where claims are in the nature of reimbursement of a financial loss) are not taxable either, as they are not income or profit.

The bottom line is that you are now free to do what you please with your investment. With that freedom come both opportunity and responsibility.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Citi Bank	10.75 onwardS	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3%
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
ICICI Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.90-18.25	10,846-12,765	2,169-2,553	Up to 2% (Min Rs 1,000 and Max Rs 10,000)
State Bank of India	11.00-15.00	10,871-11,895	2,174-2,379	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.35-14.85	10,710-11,856	2,142-2,371	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	11.75-16.25	11,059-12,226	2,212-2,445	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.75-16.00	10,562-12,159	2,112-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49-14.49	10,994-11,762	2,199-2,352	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Upto 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	11.15-12.75	10,909-11,313	2,182-2,263	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.60-20.35	11,274-13,345	2,255-2,669	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	11.05-14.05	10,884-11,647	2,177-2,329	Up to 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.50-12.80	10,501-11,325	2,100-2,265	Up to 1%
Karnataka Bank	13.88	11,603	2,321	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Rates and charges as on February 23 — **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	9.00 - 10.50	10,379 - 10,747	NIL
Bank of Baroda	8.70 - 12.20	10,307 - 11,173	Nil upto 31st March 2023
Canara Bank	9.15 - 11.95	10,416 - 11,110	waived off till 31st March 2023
Bank of India	8.85 - 10.85	10,343 - 10,834	NIL
UCO Bank	9.10 - 10.65	10,403 - 10,784	1% (Upto Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.60 - 9.45	10,282 - 10,489	NIL
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 9.90	10,319 - 10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.90 - 13.00	10,355 - 11,377	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank**	10.05	10,636	100% waiver till 31st March 2023
ICICI Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 9,000
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.50% of loan amount (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.02 - 11.44	10,384 - 10,981	0.60% of loan amount (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	11.00	10,871	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Indian Bank	8.60 - 9.70	10,282 - 10,550	0.50% on loan amount (Max. Rs 10,000)
South Indian Bank	11.40 - 12.85	10,971 - 11,338	1% of the loan amount (Max: Rs 10,000)
City Union Bank	14.00 - 14.50	11,634 - 11,764	1.25% (Min: Rs 750)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 800 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers.

Rates and charges as on February 23 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

FIGHTBACK

Latham, Conway frustrate England as New Zealand follows on

New Zealand was 202 for three in its second innings on day three after following on in the second Test in Wellington on Sunday.
The scores: England 435/8 decl. vs New Zealand 209 in 53.2 overs (Latham 35, Southee 73, Anderson 3/37, Broad 4/61) & 202/3 in 83 overs (Latham 83, Conway 61, Williamson 25 batting).

HONOURS SHARED

Real's Rodriguez denies Atletico in Madrid derby; Tottenham posts win

Real Madrid's Alvaro Rodriguez salvaged a 1-1 draw in a tense derby clash against 10-man Atletico Madrid in LaLiga on Saturday.
Other results: Sunday: Premier League: Tottenham 2 (Skipp 46, Kane 82) bt Chelsea 0; **Saturday:** Bournemouth 1 (Lerma 83) lost to Manchester City 4 (Alvarez 15, Haaland 29, Foden 45, Mepham 51-og).

AT THE HELM

Mayank to lead Rest of India against MP in Irani Cup

Mayank Agarwal will lead RoI in the Irani Cup from March 1 to 5.
The other players: Sudip Kumar Gharami, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Harvik Desai, Mukesh Kumar, Atit Sheth, Chetan Sakariya, Navdeep Saini, Upendra Yadav, Mayank Markande, Saurabh Kumar, Akash Deep, B. Indrajith, Pulkit Narang, Yash Dhull.

SOARING HIGH

Duplantis sets a new pole vault World record with 6.22m effort

Olympic champion Armand Duplantis of Sweden set a new pole vault World record of 6.22m at an indoor meet here on Saturday. He improved upon his own record of 6.21m set in Oregon last year. Duplantis opened at 5.71m, passed 5.81m, 5.91m and 6.01m before having the bar raised. It is the sixth time he has broken the record.

Australian juggernaut rolls on; heartbreak for South Africa

After Mooney guides the team to 156, the bowlers keep the host batters on a leash; opener Wolvaardt's innings not enough for Luus' side; Gardner comes up with another splendid show for Lanning's team

It's a six! The Australians are on cloud nine after clinching another World Cup crown. REUTERS

ICC T20 WOMEN'S WC

Agence France-Presse
CAPE TOWN

Australia won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup for the sixth time when it beat South Africa by 19 runs in the final at Newlands on Sunday.

Opening batter Beth Mooney anchored the Australian innings, scoring an unbeaten 74 in a total of 156 for six.

South Africa was never up with the required run rate and was restricted to 137 for six despite opener Laura Wolvaardt's 61 off 48 balls. "It's pretty special from the group," said Australia captain Meg Lanning. South Africa skipper Sune Luus hailed Australia for "setting a benchmark for the other teams."

Trying hard

Wolvaardt and the hard-hitting Chloe Tryon gave a near-capacity crowd of around 15,000 fans some cheer with an attacking fourth wicket partnership of 55 off 37 balls but the match was effectively over when the opener was trapped in front by Megan Schutt in the 17th over.

Earlier, Mooney made 74 off 53 balls while a succession of partners batted aggressively. Ashleigh Gardner and Grace Harris both batted ahead of captain Meg Lanning and appeared to be under instructions to go after the bowling.

South Africa's bowlers performed steadily and were backed by enthusiastic fielding. Stalwarts Shabnim Ismail and Marizanne Kapp both took two wickets each.

Australia defending its total with athleticism and commitment, putting the South African batters under constant pressure.

The Aussies have now won six T20 World Cups – 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2020 and 2023.

England, which won the inaugural tournament in 2009, and West Indies (2016) are the only other teams to win the World Cup.

HONOURS BOARD

2009	England
2010	Australia
2012	Australia
2014	Australia
2016	West Indies
2018	Australia
2020	Australia
2023	**Australia**

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA
Alyssa Healy c de Klerk b Kapp 18 *(20b, 3x4)*, Beth Mooney (not out) 74 *(53b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Ashleigh Gardner c Luus b Tryon 29 *(21b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Grace Harris b Mlaba 10 *(9b, 1x4)*, Meg Lanning c Tryon b Kapp 10 *(11b, 1x4)*, Ellyse Perry c Brits b Shabnim 7 *(5b, 1x4)*, Georgia Wareham b Shabnim 0 *(1b)*, Tahlia McGrath (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-4, nb-1): 7; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 156.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-36 (Healy, 4.6 overs), 2-82 (Gardner, 11.5), 3-103 (Harris, 14.1), 4-122 (Lanning, 17.1), 5-155 (Perry, 19.4), 6-155 (Wareham, 19.5).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Mlaba 3-0-24-1, Shabnim 4-1-26-2, Kapp 4-0-35-2, Khaka 4-0-27-0, de Klerk 3-0-27-0, Tryon 2-0-15-1.

SOUTH AFRICA
Laura Wolvaardt lbw b Schutt 61 *(48b, 5x4, 3x6)*, Tazmin Brits c McGrath b Brown 10 *(17b, 1x4)*, Marizanne Kapp c Brown b Gardner 11 *(11b, 2x4)*, Sune Luus run out 2 *(5b)*, Chloe Tryon b Jonassen 25 *(23b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Nadine de Klerk (not out) 8 *(10b)*, Anneke Bosch run out 1 *(2b)*, Sinalo Jafta (not out) 9 *(6b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-3, nb-2): 10; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 137.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-17 (Brits, 4.6), 2-46 (Kapp, 8.6), 3-54 (Luus, 10.4), 4-109 (Wolvaardt, 16.3), 5-121 (Tryon, 17.4), 6-122 (Bosch, 17.6).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Schutt 4-0-23-1, Gardner 4-0-20-1, Brown 4-0-25-1, Perry 1-0-5-0, Jonassen 3-0-21-1, Wareham 2-0-21-0, McGrath 2-0-17-0.
Toss: Australia.
PoM: Mooney; **PoS:** Gardner.
Australia won by 19 runs.

Aussies need to start afresh, play to their strengths

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

S. Dinakar
INDORE

Pinned down: Even the normally prolific Smith has found the going tough so far. V.V. KRISHNAN

Strategically, Australia disappointed. Not only outmanoeuvred by a rampant India in these conditions, the visitors contributed to their own downfall by shooting themselves in the foot.

Not playing their natural game, not backing their traditional strength, and being psyched by the pitches here, the Australians were found wanting both in their mind and tactics – those ridiculous attempted sweep shots won't be forgotten easily – as they went down by a mile in the first two Tests.

Will Indore tell a different story?

The Aussie batters were not picking the length of the spinners and their footwork was a mess. Where did those front-of-the-wicket drives and flicks disappear?

Not just the series, Australia's place in the World Test Championship (WTC) final is under threat. If Australia, failing to recover, goes down 4-0 to India and Sri Lanka defeats a struggling New Zealand 2-0, it will be India versus the men from the Emerald Island in the summit clash. Under stress, Australia will need to regroup.

If Australia travel to 2004, when the side finally conquered the Final Frontier, defeating India in India in a Test series, pace was its sword arm.

Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprowicz adapted to the Indian conditions, bowled fuller with the new ball and sent down accurate cutters on pitches offering turn.

Of course, the surface at Nagpur suited the seamers but the Aussies also won the first Test in Bengaluru which was a typical subcontinental pitch and were in with a real chance in spin-friendly Chennai before rain arrived.

Not only did the Aussie pacers create the pressure with their control, they also struck with their probing cutters.

Then there was the magical Shane Warne to deliver timely blows. But then, even the aggressive Warne was a strong support bowler to the Aussie pace pack.

It's surprising that with a fast bowler in Pat Cummins as captain, Australia went into the Delhi Test with just him as the lone paceman. It was a shocking selection, where a team was moving away from its own strength.

Pacer Scott Boland should have played along with Cummins.

Perhaps mentally troubled by his mother's illness, Cummins was a shadow of the bowler he is. The hostility was missing and he was not even bowling the short-pitched deliveries on a pitch of inconsistent bounce; a ploy that was so effectively employed by Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj, who gave David Warner a harrowing time.

Now that Cummins will be unavailable for the third Test, stand-in skipper Steve Smith has an opportunity to start afresh. Australia will surely be a better balanced side at Indore with the left-arm pace and swing of Mitchell Starc replacing Cummins and Cameron Green adding much value to the side with his pace and lift and dependable batting.

The Indian batters will have a tougher job on hand. The winning mantra for the Aussies is 'Play to your Strength'.

All set for the fifth edition of the Aces Awards today

SPORTSTAR ACES 2023 INDIA TRIUMPHS
Powered By IDFC FIRST Bank

Sports Bureau

The 2023 *Sportstar* Aces Awards function will be held in Mumbai on Feb ruary 27 (Monday).

The awards, presented by IDFC First Bank, has 30 categories.

The six Popular Choice Awards are Sportsman of the Year, Sportswoman of the Year, National Team of the Year, Club Team of the Year, Sporting Moment of the Year and Spirit of Sports.

The Jury

There will be 22 Jury awards, the winners being chosen by an elite panel headed by legendary India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar. Olympic gold medal-winning shooter Abhinav Bindra, former India hockey captain M.M. Somaya, chess great Viswanathan Anand, former India football skipper Bhaichung Bhutia and Olympians Anjali Bhagwat and Aparna Popat are the other members of the jury.

There will also be a Chairperson's Award for Sports for Social Good, which honours individuals/organisations that have used the power of sports to make the world a better place.

Inspirational Icon

"This year's *Sportstar* Aces Awards is special as it is entering its fifth year," said Ayon Sengupta, Editor, *Sportstar*.

"To celebrate this, we have introduced a new award – Inspirational Icon. This award will crown athletes who have enthused the next generation to pick up sports and used the power of sports to leave a mark on the larger society."

The awards function will be graced by members of the 1983 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team as the nation gears up to celebrate 40 years of the first World Cup triumph.

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya, top woman cricketer Smriti Mandhana, Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri are among the nominees for the Popular Choice Awards.

The event is supported by Indian Oil, India Cements, United India, Ramaiah University, Experimenta Science Center GD Naidu Charity, Finolex Pipes, LIC, BPCL, Samsonite, Big Basket, Nippon Paint, CRICHQ, Wordswork, NewsX and Casagrand.

Watch the Aces Awards live on *youtube.com/sportstar1978* from 6 p.m.

Purcell clinches his second successive title after an incredible fightback

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Resilient: Purcell produced a terrific back-to-the-wall performance to beat Duckworth in the final. K. MURALI KUMAR

With a terrific back-to-the-wall performance, Max Purcell secured his second straight ATP singles Challenger title (fourth overall), beating James Duckworth 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(5) at the dafaNEWS Bengaluru Open on Sunday.

The victory at the KSLTA courts will fetch the Australian 100 points and is set to carry him to a new career-high ranking (in the 110s).

But for a set and a little more, it was Duckworth who was in pole position to bag the $17,650 prize-money cheque.

The 31-year-old broke in the fourth game to lead 3-1 and maintained it to take the set. Where Duckworth played forcefully, Purcell was all steers, stabs and slices, even from the forehand wing.

When the 24-year-old lost his serve in the opening game of the second set, the crowd was seemingly in for a short evening. Purcell was also irritable, annoyed at people moving in the stands, at those who inadvertently shouted midpoint and even at a child that was crying.

But these were the same fans who wanted him to stage a comeback and he obliged, sending them into raptures by breaking Duckworth to level at 3-3. He strung together four of the best points he had played - a stretched return, a dipping pass, a nonchalant slapped forehand and stunning on-the-run lift.

By the time the supporters settled back into their chairs, Purcell had held to 4-3 and was back pressuring Duckworth again. The latter erased six break-points in the eighth game, but the resistance ended in the 12th, with a double-fault at deuce his undoing.

The third set was all about Purcell's resilience as he saved ten break-points spread across three games. In the tie-breaker, he lifted his level, with a backhand down-the-line, a crisp forehand and an ace standing out.

Duckworth saved two match-points but Purcell drilled a fine serve down the T to end the contest in style.

Srikanth and Ashmita enter semifinals

Sports Bureau

K. Srikanth defeated a fighting Kartikey Gulshan Kumar 21-10, 18-21, 21-16 and entered the semifinals of the 84th National senior badminton championships in Pune on Sunday.

Priyanshu Rajawat beat Kiran George in straight games.

In the women's section, Ashmita Chaliha and Aakarshi Kashyap entered the semifinals in contrasting style.

Ashmita defeated Isharani Baruah 21-10, 21-23, 21-16 while Aakarshi ended Pune's 13th seed Purva Barves' challenge with a 11-21, 21-13, 21-14 verdict.

The results (quarterfinals):
Men: K. Srikanth bt Kartikey Gulshan Kumar 21-10, 18-21, 21-16; M. Mithun bt Sourabh Varma 15-21, 21-19, 21-19; Harsheel Dani bt Yash Yogi 21-10, 21-15; Priyanshu Rajawat bt Kiran George 21-14, 21-15.

Women: Ashmita Chaliha bt Isharani Baruah 21-10, 21-23, 21-16; Aakarshi Kashyap bt Devika Sihag 11-21, 21-13, 21-14.

INBRIEF

Abhinand stars in Tamil Nadu's triumph

P.B. Abhinand played a major role as Tamil Nadu defeated Assam 3-1 and won the under-15 boys' inter-State team title in the UTT 84th National sub-junior table tennis championships in Alappuzha on Sunday. Ultimate Table Tennis chairperson Vita Dani gave away the prizes.

The results: Boys: Under-15 (final): Tamil Nadu bt Assam 3-1 (P.B. Abhinand bt Divyaj Rajkhowa Roy 11-7, 11-8, 11-9, Umesh Kumar bt Priyanuj Bhattacharyya 7-11, 12-10, 10-12, 12-10, 11-6, Abhinand & Umesh lost to Divyaj & Priyanuj 12-10, 11-13, 9-11, 11-8, 7-11, Abhinand bt Priyanuj 5-11, 11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 12-10).
Under-11: Final: Rishan Chattopadhyay (WB) bt J.N. Arwindh Sanjey (TN) 11-9, 9-11, 5-11, 12-10, 11-6.

F1 2023 season to begin with Bahrain GP on March 5

The Bahrain GP on March 5 will kick-start the 2023 Formula One season. The Abu Dhabi GP on November 26 will be the final race in the calendar.

The dates:
March 5: Bahrain GP; **March 19:** Saudi Arabian GP; **April 2:** Australian GP; **April 30:** Azerbaijan GP; **May 7:** Miami GP; **May 21:** Imola GP; **May 28:** Monaco GP; **June 4:** Spanish GP; **June 18:** Canadian GP; **July 2:** Austrian GP; **July 9:** British GP; **July 23:** Hungarian GPt; **July 30:** Belgian GP; **August 27:** Dutch GP; **Sept. 3:** Italian GP; **Sept. 17:** Singapore GP; **Sept. 24:** Japanese GP; **Oct. 8:** Qatar GP; **Oct. 22:** US GP; **Oct. 29:** Mexico City GP; **Nov. 5:** Brazilian GP; **Nov. 19:** Las Vegas GP; **Nov. 26:** Abu Dhabi GP.

Madhya Pradesh defeats Maharashtra to clinch title

Madhya Pradesh scored a 5-1 win over Maharashtra to win the 13th Hockey India senior women's National at Kakinada on Sunday. Diksha Tiwari struck twice while Manmeet Kaur, Preeti Dubey and Aishwarya Chavan netted one each for the winner. Lalrindiki reduced the margin.

The results: Final: Madhya Pradesh 5 (Diksha Tiwari 2, Manmeet Kaur, Preeti Dubey, Aishwarya Chavan) bt Maharashtra 1 (Lalrindiki). **Third place:** Jharkhand 2 (Roshni Dungdung, Reshma Soreng) bt Haryana 1 (Devika Sen).

LIVE TELECAST

PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Siem pulls off a thrilling one-stroke win over Paul

In a putt-and-win situation, the 42-year-old German holds his nerve to pip his younger compatriot

INDIAN OPEN

Rakesh Rao
GURUGRAM

In the eventual analysis, the difference between waiting for things to happen and making them happen separated champion Marcel Siem and his German compatriot Yannik Paul.

On a bright Sunday afternoon, pony-tailed Siem's panache proved more rewarding than Paul's patience as he did the needful to claim the winner's share of $340,000 in the $2 million Indian Open at the DLF Golf and Country Club here.

To the fore: Siem's refreshing, aggressive approach paid dividends. GETTY IMAGES

Refreshing approach

Trailing by a shot to Paul at the start of the final round, Siem went about his job sporting a flashy, colourful, attention-grabbing shirt. But it was his refreshing, aggressive approach that won him more admirers from a large gallery that followed the leader's group.

For the record, 42-year-old Siem carded a four-under 68 for a winning aggregate of 274. His card included five birdies and a bogey as against overnight leader 28-year-old Yannik Paul's bogey-free 70.

Siem's fifth Tour victory – first in eight years and 116 days – in 502 starts earned him playing rights for three years, including the current season, on the DP World Tour.

After Siem caught up with Paul at 11-under after a fourth-hole birdie and two moved to 12-under after birdies on the par-5 eighth hole, Siem took the lead on the 10th and doubled it on the 11th hole.

But more drama followed on the 13th hole where Siem bogeyed and Paul birdied. This two-shot swing meant the players were tied at -13.

Undeterred, Siem came up with a brilliant approach shot on the 15th hole and sank a 15-foot birdie to nose ahead at -14. On the par-five final hole, Siem second shot almost found the greenside water-hazard. Relieved to find the ball on a thick coat of grass, Siem unleashed his third shot that just about cleared the water body guarding the green. That left him with two putts for par.

In the meantime, Paul reached the green with his third shot and left himself a tricky birdie-putt needed to force a playoff. Siem left his first-putt short and Paul missed his birdie-putt from about eight feet. In a putt-and-win situation, Siem held his nerve to putt from four feet and emerge as the first German to win the Indian Open.

Second coming

"It's a second kickstart for my career," said Siem and continued, "this triumph should be right up there. Two years ago, I was not sure if I would ever play on the European Tour and here I am, a champion on the Tour again."

Among the Indians, Shubhankar Sharma and Veer Ahlawat aggregated 4-under 284 to share the 13th spot with three others.

Final round scores: 274: Marcel Siem (Ger) (69, 70, 67, 68); **275:** Yannik Paul (Ger) (65, 69, 71, 70); **276:** Joost Luiten (Ned) (70, 70, 68, 68).

Top five Indian scores: 284: Shubhankar Sharma (68, 74, 74, 68), Veer Ahlawat (73, 70, 68, 73); **286:** Honey Baisoya (66, 74, 73, 73), Angad Cheema (68, 71, 73, 74); **288:** Yuvraj Sandhu (70, 71, 77, 70); **290:** Manu Gandas (70, 73, 73, 74); **291:** Sachin Baisoya (75, 69, 72, 75), S. Chikkarangappa (75, 69, 75, 72).

Gukesh creates a flutter in elite field, finishes second

CHESS

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gukesh.TWITTER.COM/WR_CHESS

D. Gukesh produced a consistent display over nine rounds of the WR Chess Masters tournament and finished second-best to Levon Aronian in an elite field in Dusseldorf on Saturday.

During the nine-round classical time-format event, Gukesh scored 5.5 points and remained unbeaten. He registered wins over R. Praggnanandhaa in the second round and Russian Andrey Esipenko (seventh) and drew with Anish Giri, Wesley So, Vincent Keymer, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Jan-Krzysztof Duda and Aronian.

In the first stage of a three-man rapid playoff for the title, Aronian and Gukesh defeated Nepomniachtchi. In the final, Aronian defeated Gukesh.

By virtue of his performance, Gukesh gained 12 rating points to move to 20th in the live World rankings with a rating of 2730.

Reetika clinches a bronze medal

Sports Bureau

World junior bronze medallist Reetika claimed the women's 72kg bronze at the Ibrahim Moustafa ranking-series wrestling event in Alexandria, Egypt. Reetika beat Svetlana Oknazarova of Uzbekistan 13-2 and Lilly Schneider of Germany 10-0, before losing to Dalma Caneva of Italy 'by fall' in the semifinals. In a repeat of her clash with Lilly for the third place, Reetika again recorded a 10-0 victory for a podium finish.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Delhi FC edges Bengaluru FC

Delhi FC defeated Bengaluru FC 2-1 in the Stafford Challenge Cup football tournament here on Sunday.

The results: Sreenidi Deccan FC 2 (Pauminthang Munsong 21, Vineeth Kumar Velmurugan 62) bt Kenkre FC 0; Chennaiyin FC 2 (S. Senthamil 15, Givson Singh 45) drew with Kickstart FC 2 (Edwin Rossario 61, Bikash Yumnam 82-g); Delhi FC 2 (Fahd Temuri 90, Amay Morajkar 62-og) bt Bengaluru FC 1 (Leon Augustine 9); ARA FC 5 (Shanid Valan 5, Hari Shrestha 38, Yami Longvoh 45, Fredson Marshall 79, Pratik Swami 87) bt Kerala United FC 0.

SAI posts win

Sports Authority of India took out Tamil Nadu Police 4-2 in the 3rd Hockey India senior men inter-department hockey national championship.

The results: Railway Sports Promotion Board bt Air India Sports Promotion Board 2-0; Central Reserve Police Force bt Sports Authority of Gujarat 7-1; Petroleum Sports Promotion Board bt All India Police Sports Control Board 6-2; Sports Authority of India bt Tamil Nadu Police 4-2.

R.E. Rajendra.

Rajendra reigns in Open category

Multiple national champion and ace rally rider R.E. Rajendra won the open class category in the Motorsports Inc FMSCI Indian National Rally Sprint Championship conducted here.

The winners: Bullet Class: Jeemon Antony; **Group A Upto 600cc:** Samuel Jacob; **Group B 131cc to 165cc:** Pavan BK; **Group B 166cc to 260cc:** Imran Pasha; **Group B 261cc to 400cc:** Anish Shetty; **Group B Upto 130cc:** J. Durgesh; **Group D Upto 260cc:** Karan Kumar; **Ladies Class:** Tanika Shanbagh; **Open Class Upto 600cc:** R.E. Rajendra; **Scooter Class:** K. Karthik.

Silver medals for Govind, Anamika and Anupama

BOXING

Sports Bureau

Govind Sahani (48kg), Anamika Hooda (50kg) and Anupama Kundu (81kg) closed their campaign with silver medals at the 74th Strandja Memorial International boxing tournament in Sofia on Sunday.

With three silver medals and five bronze, India finished the event with eight medals.

Female pugilists S.Kalaivani (48kg), Shruti Yadav (70kg) and Monika (+81kg) and male boxers Bishwamitra Chongtham (51kg) and Sachin Siwach Jr. (54kg) took bronze medals.

The results (finals): Men: 48kg: Shodiyorjon Melikuziev (Uzb) bt Govind Sahani 4-1. **Women: 50kg:** Hu Meiyi (Chn) bt Anamika Hooda 4-1.

81kg: Emma-Sue Greentree (Aus) bt Anupama Kundu 5-0.

Defenders stave off Blue Spikers' challenge, enter semifinals

PVL

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

All power: Santhosh of Ahmadabad Defenders hits a smash against Kochi Blue Spikers. H. VIBHU

League leader Ahmedabad Defenders staved off a strong challenge from home side Kochi Blue Spikers at 3-2 in the RuPay Prime Volleyball League at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium here on Sunday. With that Ahmedabad, which has won five of its six matches, became the first team to qualify for the semifinals.

Angamuthu Ramaswamy played a huge role in the team's victory with his fiery smashes, keeping his cool under pressure and pulling Ahmedabad out of sticky situations. He also produced the match-winning spike after the teams were tied 14-14 in the decider.

Good support came from Nandagopal, who apart from his smart spiking also took turns with Iranian Daniel Moatazedi and setter Muthusamy to keep the Kochi attackers Erin Varghese and Jibin Sebastian at bay in the last set.

Kochi, which joined the party late winning its first match on Saturday after four losses, was on the doorstep of victory against the league leader – it led 2-1 after three sets and also enjoyed a 5-1 lead in the decider –but it could not deliver the knockout punch.

Incidentally, Kochi opted to keep its most expensive player Rohit Kumar, whom it bought for ₹17.5 lakh at the player auction, on the bench for a major part of the match. But attackers Erin, George Antony, Jibin Sebastian and B.S. Abhinav, along with Brazilian blocker Walter Netto rose to the occasion nicely and almost pulled off a sensational victory over Ahmedabad.

The result:
Ahmedabad Defenders bt Kochi Blue Spikers 3-2 (15-5, 11-15, 9-15, 15-12, 15-14).

Kenaf wins feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer L. D'Silva's Kenaf, ridden by Afroz Khan, won the N. Nari Reddy Memorial Million, the main attraction of Sunday's (Feb. 26) races here.

The winner is owned by Mr. Hari Sharan Devgan, Mr. Rajesh Sanghani & Mr. G.B.R. Prasad.

L. D' Silva saddled three more winners while Afroz rode two more winners of the day.

1. OLYMPIC FLAME PLATE: COMING HOME (D.S. Deora) 1, Shubhrak (Afroz Khan) 2, Star Medal (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Muaser (P. Ajeth Kumar) 4. 1-1/2, 2-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 27.38s. ₹23 (w), 10, 23 and 24 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 78, SHW: 13 and 19, FP: 163, Q: 81, Tanala: 961. Favourite: Coming Home. Owner: Mr. Rajeev Sharma. Trainer: Magan Singh.

2. TIME AND PLACE PLATE (DIV. II): SPLENDOUR ON GRASS (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Happy Soul (Gaurav Singh) 2, Final Judgement (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Fly Me (Md. Ismail) 4. Not run: Subha. 1/2, 5-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 12.95s. ₹17 (w), 11, 12 and 15 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 33, SHW: 13 and 13, FP: 37, Q: 19, Tanala: 54. Favourite: Splendour On Grass. Owner: Mr. Sanjay R. Goyani. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

3. FLIRTING VISION PLATE: DIVINE DESTINY (Ashad Asbar) 1, Voice Of A Dream (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Sucker Punch (Afroz Khan) 3 and Alpine Girl (Mohit Singh) 4. 8-1/2, Hd and 3. 2m, 37.61s. ₹40 (w), 11, 11 and 15 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 38, SHW: 24 and 18, FP: 110, Q: 58, Tanala: 380. Favourite: Voice Of A Dream. Owners: Mr. Champaklal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd., Miss Harsha N. Desai & Miss. Niti N. Desai. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

4. TIME AND PLACE PLATE (DIV. I): ADBHUT (Afroz Khan) 1, Sangreal (Akshay Kumar) 2, Great Giver (Gaurav Singh) 3 and N R I Fairy (Hindu Singh) 4. 1/2, 2 and 1. 1m, 12.88s. ₹23 (w), 12, 11 and 17 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 44, SHW: 15 and 10, FP: 36, Q: 18, Tanala: 114. Favourite: Sangreal. Owner: Mr. Harisharan Devgan. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

5. MCEME ROLLING TROPHY: BEAUTY BLAZE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Malibu (Rafique Sk.) 2, Above The Law (Md. Ismail) 3 and Garnet (Kiran Naidu) 4. 4-1/2, Shd and Shd. 1m, 12.05s. ₹26 (w), 13, 108 and 44 (p). SHP: 288, THP: 80, SHW: 17 and 222, FP: 1,309, Q: 862, Tanala: 13, 048. Favourite: Beauty Blaze. Owner: Mr. Md. Kashif Ali Khan. Trainer: N. Rawal.

6. N. NARI REDDY MEMORIAL MILLION: KENAF (Afroz Khan) 1, Siddharth (Ashad Asbar) 2, Clare (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Reigning Beauty (B. Nikhil) 4. 2-1/2, 3-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 11.79s. 23 (w), 15 and 14 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 21, SHW: 10 and 12, FP: 43, Q: 16, Tanala: 58. Favourite: Siddharth. Owners: Mr. Hari Sharan Devgan, Mr. Rajesh Sanghani & Mr. G.B.R. Prasad. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

7. CHIEF JUSTICE TROPHY (DIV. I): WINNING STREAK (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Painted Apache (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Nugget (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Just Incredible (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, Shd and Shd. 1m, 39.34s. ₹96 (w), 23, 12 and 12 (p). SHP: 54, THP: 72, SHW: 33 and 54, FP: 422, Q: 161, Tanala: 1,138. Favourite: Nugget. Owners: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy, Col. S.B. Nair & Mr. Arjun Reddy Ramasahayam. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

8. CHIEF JUSTICE TROPHY (DIV. II): ONLY MY WAY (Afroz Khan) 1, Juramento (Akshay Kumar) 2, Candy Girl (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Nightmare (Hindu Singh) 4. 1/2, 1/2 and 3. 1m, 38.59s. ₹142 (w), 29, 15 and 16 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 47, SHW: 31 and 18, FP: 722, Q: 308, Tanala: 3,043. Favourite: Nightmare. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹43,103 (7 tkts.) & 30%: 545 (237 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 648 (88 tkts.), (ii) 74,788 (c/f).

Treble: (i) 231 (147 tkts.), (ii) 333 (87 tkts.), (iii) 4,518 (12 tkts.).

Anab E Shahi for the Royal Arion Club Million

HYDERABAD: The three-year-old colt Anab E Shahi, who won comfortably in his last start may score an encore in the Royal Arion Club Million, the main attraction of Monday's (Feb. 27) races.

The Gmax Race System, which uses lightweight GPS trackers to provide real-time data such as speed, positioning, stride length, running order and timing for all horses in a race, will also be launched on the day.

1 REPUBLIC PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 12.50 p.m.: 1. Cape Town (7) B. Nikhil 60.5, 2. Double Bonanza (9) Kuldeep S 60.5, 3. Special Effort (2) Kiran Naidu 59.5, 4. Janasu (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 58, 5. Canterbury (5) Md. Ekram Alam 57, 6. Good Day (1) R.S. Jodha 55, 7. Raniji (6) Santosh Raj 53, 8. Ella Eldingar (3) G. Naresh 51.5 and 9. Ar Superior (8) P. Sai Kumar 51.
1. CANTERBURY, 2. CAPE TOWN, 3. DOUBLE BONANZA

2 HERITAGE PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.20: 1. Milton Keynes (2) S. Saqlain 60, 2. High Reward (4) Md. Ekram Alam 59.5, 3. Desert Sultan (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 58, 4. Blast In Class (1) Santosh Raj 56, 5. Tripurari (5) D.S. Deora 56, 6. Star Cruise (6) Kiran Naidu 54, 7. Deccan Ranger (3) Ajay Kumar 53.5, 8. The Hambone (9) Hindu Singh 53, 9. Gaugain (8) P. Sai Kumar 52.5 and 10. Jet Falcon (10) B. Nikhil 50.5.
1. BLAST IN CLASS, 2. MILTON KEYNES, 3. TRIPURARI

3 MIR FAZILATH HUSSAIN MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) , 1.50: 1. True Icon (6) Shivansh 60, 2. True Marshal (5) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. Morior Invictus (3) Kiran Naidu 58.5, 4. Top In Class (8) Mohit Singh 57, 5. N R I Sun (7) Hindu Singh 56.5, 6. Bellagio (1) S. Saqlain 53.5, 7. Wind Sprite (2) Afroz Khan 52.5 and 8. Southern Act (4) P. Sai Kumar 51.5.
1. TRUE MARSHAL, 2. BELLAGIO, 3. TRUE ICON

4 REPUBLIC PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 2.20: 1. Challenger (6) R.S. Jodha 60.5, 2. My Way Or Highway (7) Mohit Singh 59.5, 3. Aiza (8) Deepak Singh 58, 4. Sweet Melody (1) Nakhat Singh 59, 5. Ilango (9) Sonu Kumar 57, 6. Honourable Lady (3) Santosh Raj 56.5, 7. Dream Jewel (4) Kiran Naidu 53, 8. Alina (2) Rafique Sk. 51.5 and 9. It's My Life (5) B. Nikhil 50.
1. MY WAY OR HIGHWAY, 2. CHALLENGER, 3. AIZA

5 MIR FAZILATH HUSSAIN MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.55: 1. N R I Sport (6) Hindu Singh 60, 2. La Mirage (4) Suraj Narredu 59.5, 3. Bangor On Dee (2) S. Saqlain 58.5, 4. Miss Little Angel (3) Sonu Kumar 58, 5. Angelita (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 6. Silk (8) Gaurav Singh 54, 7. Strauss (5) Akshay Kumar 53, 8. Mr. Perfect (1) Mohit Singh 51.5 and 9. Starwalt (7) Kuldeep S 50.5.
1. LA MIRAGE, 2. STRAUSS, 3. BANGOR ON DEE

6 POCHRAM PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.30: 1. Clefairy (3) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Pal Cha (2) Gaurav Singh 59, 3. N R I Ultrapower (10) Shivansh 58.5, 4. Alpine Girl (9) Mohit Singh 57.5, 5. Role Model (7) Nakhat Singh 57, 6. Varrenna (4) Md. Ekram Alam 56.5, 7. Queen Blossom (1) Md. Ismail 55, 8. Das (5) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54, 9. Creative Force (6) Rafique Sk. 52.5 and 10. I Am Superman (8) D.S. Deora 51.5.
1. N R I ULTRAPOWER, 2. CLEFAIRY, 3. PAL CHA

7 GHULAM AHMED MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 4.05: 1. Watch My Stride (7) Abhay Singh 61, 2. Soloist (4) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. Premier Action (10) Afroz Khan 56, 4. Amyra (3) S. Saqlain 55.5, 5. Kingston (8) R.S. Jodha 55.5, 6. General Atlantic (9) Gaurav Singh 55, 7. Trump Star (11) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. Kesariya Balam (5) G. Naresh 52.5, 9. Mark My Day (6) B. Nikhil 52, 10. City Of Bliss (12) Neeraj 51, 11. Ashwa Morocco (1) Hindu Singh 50 and 12. Unsung Hero (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 50.
1. SOLOIST 2. GENERAL ATLANTIC, 3. CITY OF BLISS

8 ROYAL ARION CLUB MILLION (1600m), 3-y-o only, 4.40: 1. N R I Doublepower (8) Suraj Narredu 56, 2. Anab E Shahi (7) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 3. Detective (3) B. Nikhil 54.5, 4. Huntingdon (5) S. Saqlain 54.5, 5. Lucky Zone (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 6. Truth (6) Imran Chisty 54.5, 7. Livermore (1) Afroz Khan 53, 8. Encore (9) Nakhat Singh 51.5 and 9. Sian (2) Neeraj 51.5.
1. ANAB E SHAHI, 2. N R I DOUBLEPOWER, 3. LIVERMORE

9 HERITAGE PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.15: 1. Top Diamond (5) P. Sai Kumar 60, 2. Its On (3) D.S. Deora 59, 3. N R I Fantasy (6) Hindu Singh 58.5, 4. Fresh Hope (8) B. Nikhil 56, 5. Happy Go Lucky (4) Ashad Asbar 56, 6. Lights On (1) R.S. Jodha 54, 7. Hot Seat (7) S. Saqlain 53.5, 8. Sound Echo (2) Kuldeep S 53 and 9. Tantalising Star (9) Mohit Singh 52.5.
1. HAPPY GO LUCKY, 2. ITS ON, 3. FRESH HOPE
Day's Best: **TRUE MARSHAL**
Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 6, 7, 8 & 9.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3. (ii) 4, 5 & 6. (iii) 7, 8 & 9.
Tanala: All races.

Hyderabad FC downs Kerala Blasters

ISL-9

Sports Bureau
KOCHI

Kerala Blasters' hopes of ending its campaign on high came to nought as it suffered a 1-0 defeat to Hyderabad FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium here on Sunday.

Borja Herrera scored the winner for Hyderabad through a superbly crafted team goal.

The result: Kerala Blasters 0 lost to Hyderabad FC 1 (Borja Gonzalez 29).
ISL knockout fixtures: March 3: Bengaluru FC vs Kerala Blasters FC, Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru.
March 4: ATK Mohun Bagan vs Odisha FC, Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata.